

SPORTS / A31

Roger Federer
tames Roddick
anew in US Open

WORLD / A28

Security lapse probed:
B-52 bomber flew over US
with nuclear warheads

NEWS / A2

2 retired CA justices ask
SC to stop Senate probe
of Garcí starting today

NEWS / A2

PMA '06 valedictorian
Lt. Ariel Toledo dies
of liver cancer; 27

Big businessmen want closure in Erap case

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINES' MOST INFLUENTIAL business leaders yesterday said they would accept whatever the Sandiganbayan would decide in Joseph Estrada's P4-billion plunder case, with some saying they would support an amnesty or pardon in the event of a guilty verdict.

BIG BUSINESSMEN / A15

PHILIPPINE DAILY **INQUIRER**

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, September 7, 2007 ★ 12 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 271 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Pavarotti, 'most beautiful tenor voice of our time,' is dead at 71

ROME—LUCIANO PAVAROTTI, whose vibrant high C's and ebullient showmanship made him the most beloved and celebrated tenor since Caruso and one of the few opera singers to win crossover fame as a popular superstar, died Thursday. He was 71.

His manager, Terri Robson, said that Pavarotti died at his home in Modena, Italy, at 5 a.m. (0300 GMT). Pavarotti had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer last year and underwent further treatment in August.

"The maestro fought a long, tough battle against pancreatic cancer which eventually took his



WHAT OPERA IS ALL ABOUT

life. In fitting with the approach that characterized his life and work, he remained positive until finally succumbing to the last stages of his illness," Robson said in a statement.

For serious fans, the unforced beauty and thrilling urgency of Pavarotti's voice made him the ideal interpreter of the Italian lyric repertory, especially in the 1960s and '70s when he first achieved stardom.

For millions more, his charismatic performances of standard arias like "Nessun Dorma" from Puccini's "Turandot" came to represent what

PAVAROTTI / AB



THRILLA IN MANILA: Opera's global superstar was presented by impresario Rosemarie "Baby" Arenas in a sold-out concert at the PICC on March 21, 1994. Then Vice President Joseph Estrada was the highest ranking official in the audience and rose to his feet to honor the tenor after his last song.

INQUIRER FILE

Palace calls key players

Mendoza,
Neri meet
with Ermita
on ZTE deal

By Michael Lim Ubac,
Tony S. Bergonia
and Norman Bordadora

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Eduardo Ermita yesterday summoned to a closed-door meeting the alleged main players in the national broadband network (NBN) project, Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza and former Planning Secretary Romulo Neri.

The \$329-million NBN contract won by ZTE Corp. has been met by public uproar over allegations of massive bribery and undue advantage given to the Chinese firm.

Earlier in the day, Ermita said he would ask Neri to explain the circumstances surrounding the deal.

"I will talk to him. He's in the

PALACE / A4

CA orders
AFP: Yield
report in
Jonas case

By Leila B. Salaverria

SAYING THE LIFE AND LIBERTY of missing activist Jonas Burgos take precedence, the Court of Appeals directed the provost marshal general to produce its report on a plate number under military custody that was later seen on the vehicle of Jonas' abductors.

The appellate court denied a motion to quash the subpoena for the report, saying the worst

CA ORDERS / A4



SHANTYTOWN DREAMING The view from the shantytown along the banks of the floodway in Pasig City is richly rewarding for its aspirational residents: Sleek condos rising up like a dream world in the misty distance of Eastwood, Libis, Quezon City.

EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA has a lot on her plate today in Sydney

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SYDNEY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo arrived here last night a little more than a day before she and 20 other leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) begin a summit on Saturday.

Philippine Consul General Maria Theresa Lazaro said there were no ar-

rival honors for Ms Arroyo at the Sydney International Airport at 8:54 p.m., because of the "informal" tradition of the Australian government.

The President was accompanied on the chartered Philippine Airlines flight by her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo and a high-powered business delegation.

Ms Arroyo has a full agenda today, be-

fore the two-day Apec leaders meeting which begins on Saturday.

First on her schedule will be lunch hosted by US President George W. Bush for her and other leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations at 11 a.m. today. Bush will then have a 20-minute meeting with Ms Arroyo.

She will also meet with American and Australian businessmen and leaders of

the Global Filipino Networking Conference tonight.

Before the Bush-Arroyo talks, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo will meet with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Lazaro said Rice and Romulo are expected to discuss the fight against terrorism, continuing US military aid to the

GMA HAS / A16

MMDA's 'Gwapotel' big hit at P20 a night, P5 a bath, with transients

By DJ Yap

SINCE OPENING FOUR MONTHS ago, "Gwapotel Inn" run by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority has apparently delivered on its no-frills offer: Safe, decent lodgings for out-of-towners on a frugal budget.

And according to MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, even white-collar types and traders

have been checking in, taking advantage of the token charges: P20 for a night's stay, a minimum of P5 for a bath.

More than 40,000 transients have had a generally pleasant stay in the four-story "hotel" on Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, since its opening on May 14, Fernando reported in a statement yesterday.

The 710-bed inn, which used

to house the offices of National Power Corp, but is now painted in "BF's" signature pink and blue, has since posted an average occupancy rate of 73 percent, or about 519 guests daily, the agency said.

But unlike in regular hotels, the overnighters don't get a room but share a common sleeping in their double-deck beds

MMDA'S / A19



Palace forms new media office to polish RP int'l image

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Christian V. Esguerra

MISSION: TO POLISH THE Philippines' image in the global arena.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has formed a separate media office "to monitor overseas media coverage and plan/coordinate initia-

PALACE / A19

EZ2
(2) 15 | 0 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 0
SIX DIGIT
Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening
(9 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 5)
(All in exact order)
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Second FRONT PAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Mataas Na Manlalakad	Partly Cloudy	Bataan/Bacoor	Partly Cloudy
Olongapo	Mostly Cloudy	Reeves	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tarlac	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Mostly Cloudy	San. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Taytay	Partly Cloudy	Zambanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapad	Partly Cloudy	None	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY SCHAFFL-GIORDANO, PCI RESEARCH/09/04/07

SOURCE: PAGASA

SC asked to stop 'Garci' probe

2 ex-Court of Appeals justices file for TRO on eve of Senate hearing

By Leila B. Salaverria, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Christine Avendano

SAYING THE ISSUE WOULD FURTHER DIVIDE the country, two retired appellate court justices yesterday asked the Supreme Court to stop the Senate's reopening of the "Hello Garci" controversy to probe President Macapagal-Arroyo's alleged involvement in electoral fraud as purportedly shown by wiretapped phone conversations.

Retired Court of Appeals Justices Santiago Ranada and Oswald Agcaoili also told the high court the Senate's planned investigation, scheduled to open today, would be in violation of the Anti-Wiretapping Law, or Republic Act No.

4200, as well as the constitutional rights of those appearing before it.

They said that since the rules of procedure for the conduct of inquiries in aid of legislation had not yet been published, "any person who may testify in the investiga-

tion is deprived of his rights."

Ranada and Agcaoili filed the petition for a temporary restraining order on the Senate investigation, and for an eventual permanent injunction against it, as concerned citizens, taxpayers and members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

"Petitioners are of the firm conviction [that] any attempt to use the so-called Garci tape will further divide the country," they said in their petition.

"Unless a TRO or preliminary injunction is issued, the dubious Senate investigation/inquiry/hearings will escalate into a continuing violation, if not a flaunting disregard or defiance, of

the Constitution, including the serious infringement of the constitutional rights of those involved, affected or invited as resource speakers, as well as a violation of RA 4200," they said.

According to the retired justices, the Anti-Wiretapping Law prohibits wiretapping as well as the mere possession and use of wiretapped materials. They said even the discussion of the transcripts or contents of illegally recorded conversations was not allowed.

"The Constitution sternly provides that an illegal wiretap shall be inadmissible for any purpose in any proceeding," they said.

The use of evidence obtained in violation of a person's right to pri-

vacy is also banned under the Constitution, the former justices said.

"There is no court order authorizing the wiretapping of the purported conversation nor is there a law allowing such on the ground of public safety and order," they said.

Bishop Socrates Villegas, retired Gen. Efren Abu, a former Armed Forces chief of staff, and former Army Sgt. Vidal Doble will topbill the opening today of the Senate's Hello Garci probe which will focus on the extent of the military's wiretapping operation, the public officials who ordered the bugging, and election cheating.

The three confirmed their attendance through intermedi-

aries, said Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the committee on national defense which will lead the joint Senate panel probe into the wiretapped conversations between the President and former election official Virgilio Garcillano.

Biazon said the defense committee was not interested in listening to the tapes, which would remove fears of possible violation of the Anti-Wiretapping Law.

"All we need to do is to establish that there is a tape and find out who were responsible for those tapes so we can establish what the Isafp was doing at the time," said Biazon.

more," she said.

Encarnacion resigned from her job as a financial analyst in a beverage company to take care of Toledo.

"When he was still strong, when he was still at the PMA, we talked about our what-ifs, like what if something happened to him. He told me he didn't want people crying over him and he didn't want us to wear black. He wanted us to wear white so the mood won't be too sad," she said with a slight smile.

The couple would have wed in January 2008.

Not all heroes' deaths are on battlefield, young officer shows

By Tarra Quismundo

IN THE FACE OF DEATH, THE warrior within shone through.

His was a fight different from his "mistake" in the battlefield, but Air Force Lt. Ariel Toledo died a hero just the same in a hospital bed Wednesday night, succumbing to the liver cancer he had fought so valiantly against for more than a year.

Toledo, valedictorian of Philippine Military Academy Class 2006 (Mandirigmang Dangal ng Lahi or Mandala) had dreamed of pursuing studies abroad and becoming a pilot.

Instead, he became the fifth casualty among the 324-strong Mandala Class, which lost Marine Lieutenants Eugene Machiste Pilhera, Roldan Samera and Ermin Soloren in battle in Basilan on Aug. 18 and Army Lt. Mark Evan Onrubia in a communist rebel attack in a remote Abra town in May.

"Within four months we lost five classmates. So it's very tragic for our class, a big loss," said 2nd Lt. Marvin Alambra, among Toledo's closest mates (classmates).

"He didn't give up. Until the end, it was just his body that was giving in but mentally he

was really fighting. He was one of the strongest among our classmates," Alambra said.

Toledo's older brother, Marou, willed himself to talk when asked about the family's only soldier:

"He had many dreams. He wanted to help us all. But he fell sick... He was fighting until the end but it was for nothing," said Marou, among the soldier's nine surviving siblings (two had died earlier).

Marou said that since their parents died years ago, the siblings saw Ariel as their brightest hope.

Their policeman-father, Prudencio, along with brother Prudencio Jr., were killed in a tragic shooting in their native Ilocos Sur in 1992. Mother Pilar died from a health condition in 2001. Another older brother died as a child.

Toledo was accorded military honors yesterday at Villamor Air Base, his hearse greeted by the somber sound of trumpets and a line of young officers and enlisted men standing at attention and saluting their fallen comrade.

His white casket was draped in the Philippine flag in the Philippine Air Force mortuary, where his remains would lie for three days before being brought to rest in his hometown Sto.

Domingo, Ilocos Sur, on Saturday.

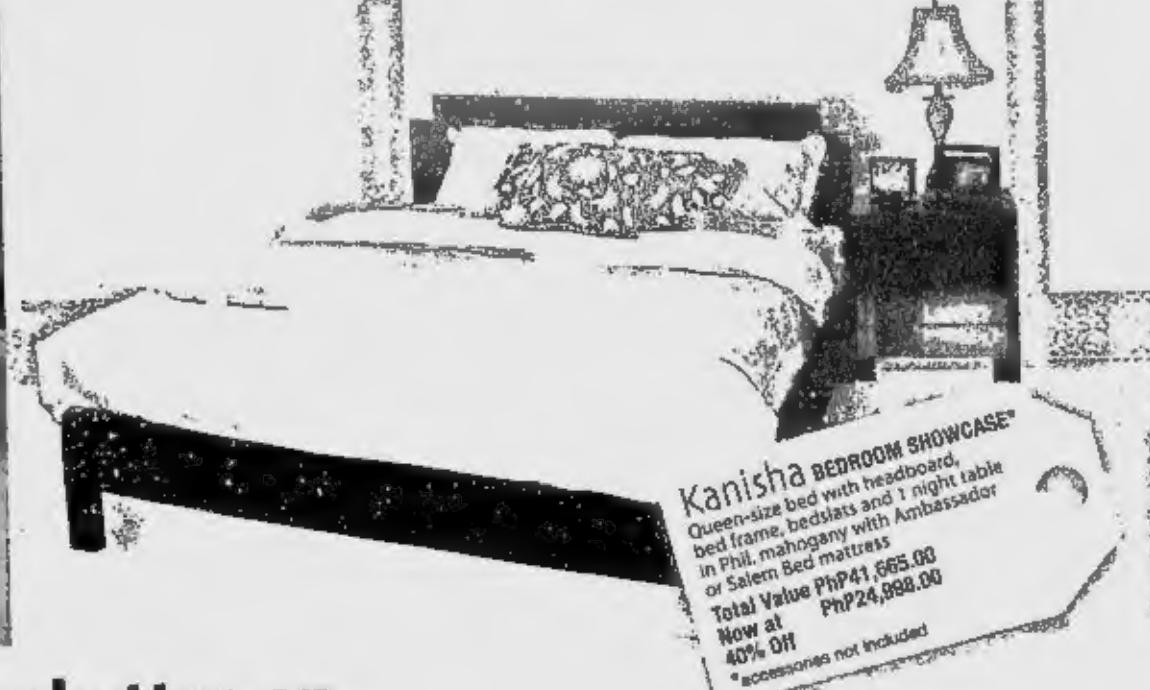
He had expressed the wish to be buried there to his girlfriend of seven years, Margaret Encarnacion.

"He told me what he wanted... he said he should be buried in Ilocos... It was like we didn't want [to part ways] yet; he didn't want to go yet, but I guess he was already finding it hard to fight... I'm just not sure," said Encarnacion, fighting back the tears.

"Because whenever I asked him, he said he still could go on. And then, I don't know, maybe it was just not possible any-



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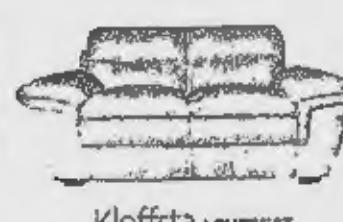
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It's September, so why does it feel like May?

IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE COOL AROUND this time of year; why then does it feel like summer all over again?

But the stifling heat that has broiled Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon and the Visayas the past few days is nothing unusual, weather forecasters said yesterday.

"Blame it on the high pressure area,"

Nathaniel Cruz, head of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration's weather branch, said in a phone interview.

A high pressure system brings bright, sunny days with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms in the evening.

"We actually call it fair weather," Pagasa weather observer Aldczar Au-

relio said in an interview.

Aurelio explained that around this time of the year, when the earth is tilted 23.5 degrees, the sun's heat is concentrated on the northern hemisphere, where the Philippines is located.

The highest temperatures of 35.5°C Celsius on Monday, 36°C on Tuesday and 36°C on Wednesday were all

recorded by the Pagasa station in Catabagan, Samar.

In Quezon City, the temperature rose from 33.2°C on Monday to 33.9°C on Tuesday before dipping ever so slightly to 33.8°C on Wednesday. The highest temperature recorded so far in Metro Manila was 37°C in Quezon City on April 24. TJ Burgonio

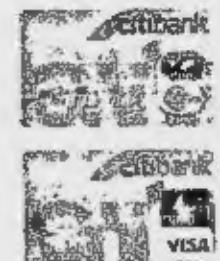


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Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.

Palace calls key players; Neri to be asked about bribe offer

From page A1
papers today," the executive secretary said.

Ermita, however, pointed out that Neri "neither confirmed nor denied the bribery attempt."

Neri neither confirmed nor denied on Wednesday that he was offered P200 million to support the NBN project, which seeks to establish a seamless connectivity of landline, cellular and Internet services among all government agencies and offices.

Neri, now head of the Commission on Higher Education, said he would talk when properly summoned by Congress. The House and the Senate are set to investigate the deal.

Rep. Carlos Padilla, in a privilege speech, said Neri, former director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), had been offered up to P250 million to support the deal.

Asked about the bribe reportedly offered to Neri, Ermita said: "I have yet to verify it, but I will talk to him."

Ermita had to preside over the meeting with Mendoza and Neri because President Macapagal-Arroyo left yesterday for Sydney to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

As of press time, Ermita, Mendoza and Neri were still in the meeting in Malacañang.

The NBN project was approved by the Neda board, a Cabinet-level body presided over by Ms Arroyo, in the first quarter of 2007.

But Neri said Ms Arroyo did not pick ZTE to implement the NBN project because the Neda board only approved the "policy" of setting up the broadband project.

Beri said it was the DOTC that chose ZTE.

No engineering design

The Philippine government struck a deal with ZTE to build a broadband backbone without a detailed design of the project, the supply contract that Philippine officials entered into with ZTE showed.

The absence of the engineering design when the contract was signed indicates that the project's technical specifications were subject to under-the-table deals, a UP economics professor yesterday said.

Big stink

A copy of the contract, obtained by the INQUIRER, showed that there was no detailed engineering design yet for the NBN project at the time Mendoza and ZTE vice president Yu Yong signed the supply contract on April 21 in the presence of Ms Arroyo in Hainan, China.

Raul Fabella, economics professor at the University of the Philippines who coauthored a paper on the NBN, expressed surprise upon learning that there was no engineering design at the time of the contract signing.

"In this case, the specs (specifications) could be moved around, depending on unclear terms," said Fabella, who wrote the UP paper on NBN with Emmanuel de Dios, dean of the UP School of Economics.

"This has become a very big stink," he said in a phone interview. "It's amazing."

Under the contract's heading Scope of Work, Article 16.2 said: "The contractor (ZTE) shall pre-

pare and complete the detailed engineering services, the plans, specifications and designs and submit the same for the approval of the purchaser (government)."

"As specified in the attachment in this contract, the contractor shall: a) prepare and complete the detailed engineering studies, plans, specifications, and designs for the project and submit the same for approval by the purchaser," the contract said.

It wasn't clear how the project proponents were able to come up with \$329 million as the cost of the NBN project without a detailed engineering design.

Provision to determine cost

But in the absence of a detailed engineering design, the contract has a provision that would determine costs based on designs that had yet to be submitted at the time of the signing.

"The Priced Bill of Quantities shall be revised in accordance with the actual requirement of the project to be determined and approved by the purchaser and the contractor during the detailed engineering stage," said Article 5 of the supply contract.

Critics of the deal called for an investigation of allegations that Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos had brokered the deal and offered bribes to people whose support was needed to push the project.

Abalos repeatedly denied the accusation, but admitted that he had met with officials of ZTE for golf here and in China.

"As a result, government officials are able to fob off one pro-

posal against another by merely citing one or the other technical detail," it said.

Impeachment rules

The House on Wednesday night adopted provisional rules that will govern impeachment proceedings and congressional inquiries in aid of legislation.

House Majority Leader Arthur Defensor said the chamber adopted the rules because of the imminent filing of an impeachment complaint against Abalos.

A former congressman, Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico, has said that he had enough evidence to nail Abalos in an impeachment case.

Suplico said he would file the impeachment complaint against Abalos next week.

A businessman, who talked on condition of anonymity, said Abalos had brokered the deal and offered \$10 million to businessman Jose de Venecia III, co-founder of AHL, to back out of the broadband project.

Lack of clarity

The UP paper written by Raul Fabella and De Dios pointed to lack of clarity as the major source of confusion in the debate over whether or not the country needed the NBN.

"The debate ... has become confused largely because the government has failed to specify a.) its minimum technological requirements and b.) its minimum commitments if the project were to be implemented via BOT (build-operate-transfer)," said the UP paper.

"This gives great leeway for dis-

cretion—and not too far behind, opportunities for corruption—on the part of those authorized to make the final selection," it said.

Despite the absence of an engineering design at the time of the signing, the contract was able to fix the costs of the project components.

For equipment, the contract said \$194 million was to be allotted out of the \$329 million. About \$118 million would be for engineering services.

At least \$14 million would be for "managed services," while \$1.9 million would be for training.

While there were no engineering specifications at the time of the signing, the contract was clear on the terms of payment.

Cost of equipment

For equipment, the contract said 15 percent of \$329 million shall be paid in advance by the government 10 days after the contract's implementation starts.

The government, under the contract, shall pay half the cost of equipment delivered within 10 days after the papers for the delivery had been submitted, as the project is carried out.

The government, said the contract, shall also pay in advance 15 percent of the cost of engineering services 10 days after the start of the contract's implementation.

The same terms apply to the payment of managed services.

CA orders AFP ...

From page A1

that could happen with its disclosure was the Armed Forces of the Philippines would be embarrassed and its involvement in the abduction would be known.

"This court is not ready to order the quashing of the subpoena merely because it would cause embarrassment to those AFP officers or personnel who made it possible for the abductors to possess or utilize the subject plate number in the abduction of Jonas Burgos," the court said in a resolution on Sept. 5.

"Jonas Burgos' liberty, or maybe even his life, which is at stake in the present petition for habeas corpus, takes primordial importance over those reasons being raised by respondents."

Col. Arthur Abadilla, the AFP provost marshal general, and Assistant Solicitor General Amparo Tang informed the court during the hearing of the habeas corpus petition yesterday that they would file a motion for reconsideration.

Tang said that even if the motion for reconsideration was denied, she would not consider it a setback since she did not think there was anything adverse in the report.

The family of Burgos, 36, son of the late publisher and press freedom icon Jose "Joe" Burgos, has been trying to get a copy of the report which was subpoenaed during an earlier hearing of the petition for habeas corpus that Burgos' mother Edita had filed.

Abadilla has told the court that the report is not under his control and that it is irrelevant to the petition because it only dealt with the administrative liability of officers involved in the loss of the license plate.

Fishing for evidence

Abadilla also said Edita Burgos was fishing for evidence and that the subpoena was unreasonable or oppressive because it would subject him to

administrative and criminal liability. He cited a memo that prohibits the military from disclosing confidential information.

The 56th Infantry Battalion has been implicated in the April 28 abduction of Burgos from the Ever Gotesco Mail at Fairview in Quezon City after plate No. TAB-194 of a vehicle it had impounded was seen on the van used by the kidnappers.

The provost marshal's report relative to the alleged loss of the said plate number would definitely shed light on how the said plate number ended up in the vehicle used in abducting Jonas Burgos. Hence, respondents' allegations that the Investigation Report is irrelevant to the issue at hand must fail," the court said.

It also said the military had failed to show that the disclosure of the information would endanger national security, be prejudicial to the interest or prestige of the nation or government activity, injure an individual, be advantageous to a foreign nation or cause administrative embarrassment.

No merit

The court found no merit in Abadilla's argument that the investigation report was no longer under his control since he had already submitted it to Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., the AFP chief of staff.

It said that during the Aug. 6 hearing, Abadilla had bought a copy of the report but asked for time to seek Esperon's approval for him to be allowed to provide the court a copy. His request was granted.

Burgos' family believes the military was involved in the abduction, but the Philippine National Police says communists guerrillas out to punish him for allegedly stealing funds of the New People's Army. The PNP says Burgos, an agriculturist who had trained peasants on organic farming, is an NPA officer in Bulacan.

Corrections

IN THE SEPT. 3 ISSUE, a story on Page A3—"9 senators vs 'Garc' probe-Migz"—misquoted Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri as saying that Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan was among the senators "who had been insistent about violating the civil rights of Ms Arroyo." Zubiri was referring to Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.—not Pangilinan.

IN THE SEPT. 5 ISSUE, a story on Page A11 had an erroneous headline—"Survey a vindication for Erap, says Jinggoy." It was San Juan City Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito—not Sen. Jinggoy Estrada—who issued the statement that the findings of a recent Social Weather Stations survey vindicated ousted President Joseph Estrada.

IN LATER COPIES OF THE SEPT. 6 ISSUE, a photo caption on Page A6 misstated the concurrent position of Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera. Devanadera was recently designated acting justice secretary—not "acting DOTC (Department of Transportation and Communications) chief."



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THE END

RP chosen site of first Asean arts and crafts exposition

THE PHILIPPINES HAS BEEN chosen as the venue for the first international expo to showcase the arts and crafts of designers and artists from the 10 Asean nations and their partner countries, it was announced by Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano.

The First International Arts and Crafts Expo of the Asean Handicraft Promotion and De-

velopment Association (AHPDA) will be held on Nov. 22-25 at the SMX Convention and Exhibition Center, SM Central Business Park, SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

Durano said the expo has the support of the government and the private sector.

"The Asean expo will provide a platform to raise the level of awareness on the importance of

arts and crafts in marketing tourism," Durano said. "The event will have three major components—exhibits, a business forum and cultural events."

Durano is chair of the expo's national organizing committee. Co-chairs are Trade Secretary Peter Ravila and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo. Philippine Tourism Authority General

Manager Robert Barbers is vice chair while the SMX Convention Center is a copresenter.

Task force

In line with the expo, Durano has created a task force headed by Dr. Mina T. Gabor, AHPDA president and former tourism secretary, to oversee the country pavilions, arts and crafts markets, crafts demonstrations

and workshops, cultural shows, national day celebrations and forums.

Filipino tourism attaches will coordinate the participation of their host countries in the marketing meeting called in Manila by Durano.

To be displayed in the pavilions are award-winning arts and crafts, including decorative items, jewelry, fashion wear and

accessories, textiles and fabrics, household products, artistic creations and gift items.

The expo secretariat is at Legaspi Towers 300, Roxas Boulevard corner P. Ocampo Street, Manila, with tel. nos. 525-9318 to 27. More information can be had at www.ahpda-expo.com or by e-mailing ahpdaexpo2007@yahoo.com or pcvcnet@dotpcvc.gov.ph.

It ain't over, but '07 already a banner year for tourism

By Jerome Aning

WITH FOUR MONTHS STILL TO go, the Department of Tourism is already hailing 2007 as a "milestone year" for Philippine tourism as it eyes a record-breaking 3 million foreign visitors.

"This will be a milestone year for the tourism industry," said Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano in a statement, citing first semester figures showing more than 1.5 million foreign tourist arrivals.

"With the upbeat and sustained momentum of visitor influx, we're looking at breaching, for the first time, the three million mark by year-end," Durano said.

Top dollar-earner

The DOT's latest figures showed arrivals in the first half of the year registering 7.6-percent growth over the same period last year—"a figure that supports the optimistic forecast," the secretary said.

The DOT sees visitor spending rising to as high as \$2.9 billion, or P133 billion, this year.

Durano said visitor expenditure growth averaged 20.11 percent over the last three years, making tourism one of the top dollar-

earners for the country.

In 2006 alone, he said, the travel and tourism industry generated an estimated 3.49 million jobs, cementing its position as one of the top employment-generators in the country.

But more than increased visitor arrivals, revenue and jobs, Durano said more than \$2 billion in investments had been poured into tourism estates, hotel and resort development in emerging destinations like Marinduque and Eastern Samar.

Other destinations

Aside from the two provinces, the DOT, in cooperation with their local governments, is promoting other destinations like South Cotabato, Pampanga, Camarines Sur and Bancayan Island for both investors and tourists to consider.

Durano said an international luxury resort was developing a six-star hotel on Elephant Island in Marinduque—which showed the global business community had revived its interest in the Philippines.

Airlines have also opened new routes such as South Korea-Davao, Korea-Kalibo, Taipei-Cebu, Shanghai-Cebu and others.

With India and Russia emerging as fast-growing tourist sources, the DOT is currently negotiating for new routes to these countries.

Together with the Department of Foreign Affairs, it has finalized visa-upon arrival arrangements. Interisland connectivity has also improved with increased flights over the past year.

Strong demand

"It is still very much a supplier's market for the industry as resorts and hotels are overwhelmed with the strong demand for rooms. It is a good challenge to have and we need to ensure that infrastructure development preserves and sustains the natural resources in these areas," Durano said.

To highlight the country's multiple attractions, Durano recently ordered the revival of the slogan "7,107 islands" on DOT's promotional materials.

"Our country is a multi-destination, offering a wide variety of activities and attractions anywhere from historical walks to water sports. This effectively reflects our culture, a total experience we aggressively and proudly promote in our target markets," Durano told reporters.

Bullet still proves to be lucky charm for Filipino arrested, freed in Brunei

By Cynthia D. Balana

A FILIPINO WOMAN HAS BEEN FREED BY a court in Brunei after charges of possession of ammunition against her were dropped on "compassionate grounds," the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

Florida Narvarte Norman was set free on Sept. 1 after the public prosecutor's office informed the magistrate court that it did not wish to pursue the criminal case against her, according to a report by Philippine Ambassador to Brunei Virginia Benavidez.

The public prosecutor said Norman "did not pose a threat to the security of Brunei Darussalam following a background check."

Norman, a permanent resident of Australia, was reunited with her Australian husband, Peter, and their 1-year-old son, John Rainier, after 10 days' detention at Jerudong Prison.

Norman was traveling with her family to the Philippines from Darwin, Australia, via Brunei Darussalam when she was arrested at Brunei International Airport on Aug. 21 after a bullet was found in her wallet during a routine check. The Normans were about to board a connecting flight to Manila at the time.

During police investigation, Norman explained that her father had given her the bullet as an amulet during her university days in the Philippines. She has since kept the bullet as a lucky charm.

The DFA said the case against Norman was dismissed through the collective efforts of the Philippine Embassy, the office of Brunei's Attorney General and the Royal Brunei Police Force.

According to the ambassador, Norman was

the third Filipino national to be charged with possession of ammunition. In August and October 2006, two Filipinos were arrested at the Brunei International airport and charged with the same offense after bullets were found in their possession. All three Filipinos said the live bullets were amulets and lucky charms.

The embassy has appealed to Filipinos traveling to or transiting in Brunei not to carry live ammunition.

"Such amulets or lucky charms could turn out to be magnets for unfortunate incidents during the trip. Brunei's Arms and Explosives Act is very stringent and punishes the unauthorized possession of ammunition with imprisonment of five to 15 years," Benavidez said.

Aside from imprisonment, those found with live bullets could also be punished with "whipping with not less than 3 strokes and not more than 12 strokes."

A pregnant Filipino worker, meanwhile, who was a victim of illegal recruitment, has been repatriated from Turkey.

In his report to the DFA, Ambassador to Turkey Bahnamir Guinomia said the victim, whom he did not identify, left Istanbul en route to Manila on Sept. 5 with the assistance of the embassy.

Guinomia said the victim was five months pregnant and did not want to deliver her baby in Turkey. She claimed her boyfriend abandoned her and he could no longer be located.

Guinomia said the 22-year old OFW, who grew up in Cotabato City, was recruited in November 2004 by a friend in Metro Manila who falsified her birth date to make it appear she was 33 years old.

OK needed to hire Pinoys directly

By Jerome Aning

FOREIGN EMPLOYERS WHO WANT TO hire Filipino workers without using the services of local recruitment agencies must obtain approval from the Department of Labor and Employment, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration governing board has ruled.

In a board resolution, the POEA board repealed a section of the rules covering the recruitment of land-based overseas workers, which allows the registration with the POEA of "name hires" as an exemption from the ban on direct hiring.

"Name hires" refers to workers who obtain employment on their own without the participation of recruitment agencies.

Registration with the POEA gives overseas workers such benefits as insurance and health care, education and training, family

welfare services as well as protection and assistance in their place of work.

The Labor Code prohibits an employer from hiring Filipino workers for overseas employment, except through the boards (the POEA or entities authorized by the secretary of labor).

As an exemption, however, the POEA was allowed to process the employment contracts of overseas Filipino workers who are directly hired by members of the diplomatic corps and international organizations.

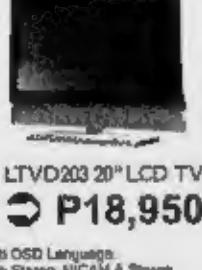
Foreign employers who are accredited with private recruitment agencies are not allowed to directly hire Filipino workers, explained POEA administrator Rosalind Dimapilis-Baldoz.

The new measure will cover direct-hired OFWs like nurses.

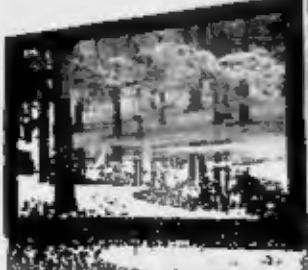
Baldoz said the POEA will soon be issuing guidelines for the implementation of the resolution.

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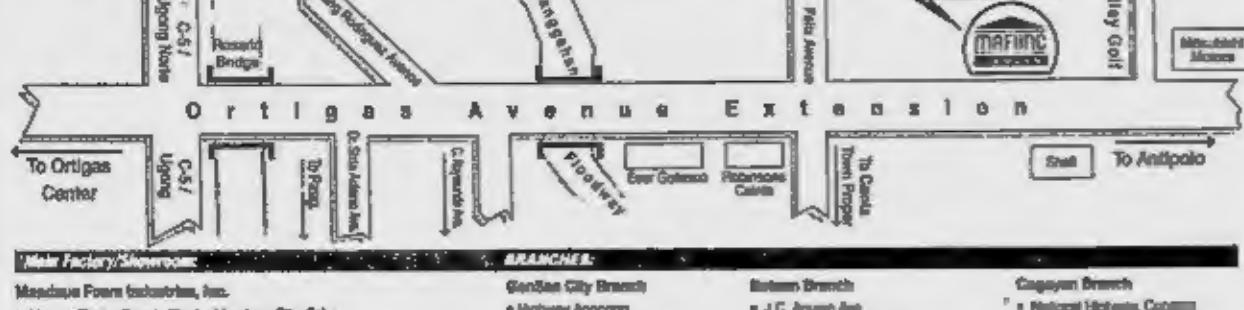
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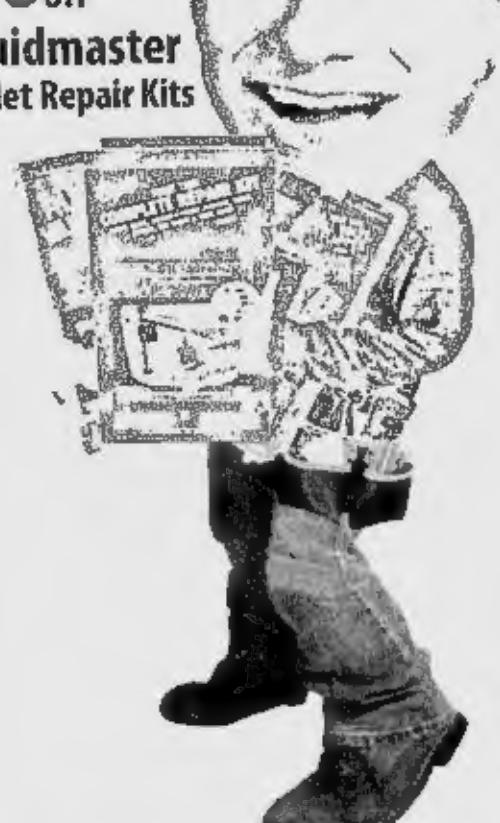
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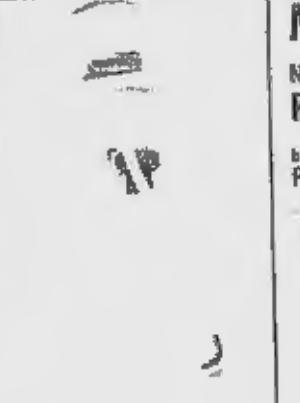
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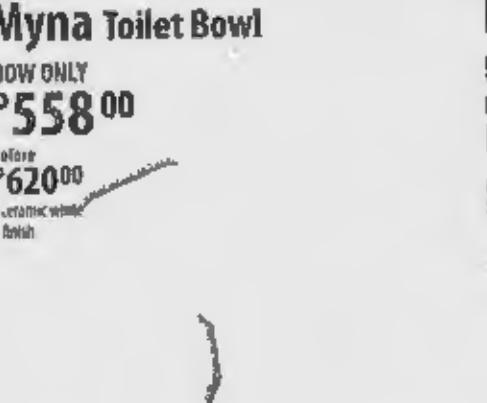
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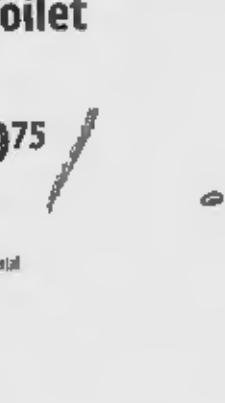
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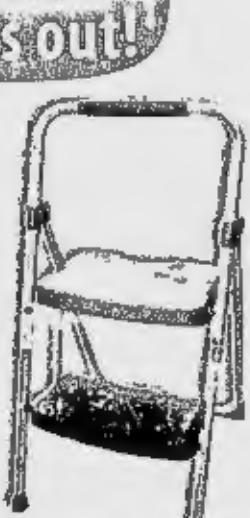
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Pavarotti, 'most beautiful tenor voice of our time,' is dead at 71

From page A1

opera is all about.

In fact, "Nessun Dorma" was Pavarotti's last performance, sung at the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy, in February 2006. His last full-scale concert was in Taipei in December 2005.

It was the second monumental loss in the opera world in recent months. American soprano Beverly Sills, whose widespread popularity mirrored Pavarotti's, died on July 2 at her home in New York. She was 78 and also suffered from cancer.

Intangible magic

Pavarotti was instantly recognizable with his charcoal black beard and tuxedo-busting girth. He radiated an intangible magic that helped him win hearts in a way Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras—his partners in the "Three Tenors" concerts—never quite could.

"I always admired the God-given glory of his voice—that unmistakable special timber from

the bottom up to the very top of the tenor range," Domingo said in a statement from Los Angeles.

"I also loved his wonderful sense of humor and on several occasions of our concerts with Jose Carreras—the so-called Three Tenors concerts—we had trouble remembering that we were giving a concert before a paying audience, because we had so much fun between ourselves," he said.

Pavarotti, who seemed equally at ease singing with soprano Joan Sutherland as with the Spice Girls, scoffed at accusations that he was sacrificing his art in favor of commercialism.

Biggest superstar

"The word commercial is exactly what we want," he said, after appearing in the widely publicized "Three Tenors" concerts. "We've reached 1.5 billion people with opera. If you want to use the word commercial, or something more derogatory, we don't care. Use whatever you want."

"Pavarotti is the biggest superstar of all," the late New York Times music critic Harold



WHEN THE WORLD WAS YOUNG: With then Vice President Joseph Estrada and impresario Rosemarie "Baby" Arenas by his side, Pavarotti met the press on arrival in Manila for what was to be his one and only concert here. And he didn't sing the song he's best remembered for.

INQUIRER PHOTO

Schonberg once said.

In his heyday, he was known as the "King of the High Cs" for the ease with which he tossed off difficult top notes. In fact, it was his ability to hit nine glorious high Cs in quick succession that first turned him into an international superstar, singing Tito's aria "Ah! Mes amis" in Donizetti's "La Fille du Regiment" at New York's Metropolitan Opera in 1972.

Pavarotti starred in a film called "Yes, Giorgio" (though its failure scuttled his hopes for a Hollywood career) and appeared in a filmed version of "Rigoletto." He wrote an autobiography, "I, Luciano Pavarotti," and made more than 90 recordings.

From Beijing to Buenos Aires, people immediately recognized his incandescent smile and lumbering bulk. Clutching a white handkerchief, he sang arias and Neapolitan folk songs, pop numbers and Christmas carols for hundreds of thousands in outdoor concerts.

star-studded ceremony. Pavarotti said their daughter Alice, nearly a year old at the time of the wedding, was the main reason he and Mantovani finally wed after years together.

In the latter part of his career, Pavarotti came under fire for canceling performances or pandering to the lowest common denominator in his choice of programs.

He was criticized for lip-synching at a concert in Modena, Italy, his hometown. An artist accused him of copying her works from a how-to-draw book and selling the paintings.

Pavarotti was also dogged by accusations of tax evasion. In 2000, he agreed to pay nearly \$12 million to the Italian state after he had unsuccessfully claimed that the tax haven of Monte Carlo rather than Italy was his official residence.

"I cannot live being thought not a good person," he said upon agreeing to the tax settlement.

Son of a baker

The son of a baker who was an amateur singer, Pavarotti was born on Oct. 12, 1935, in Modena. As a boy, Pavarotti showed more interest in soccer than his studies, but he also was fond of listening to his father's recordings of tenor greats like Beniamino Gigli, Tito Schipa, Jussi Björling and Giuseppe Di Stefano, his favorite.

In his teens, Pavarotti was influenced by the American movie actor-singer Mario Lanza. "In my teens I used to go to Mario Lanza movies and then come home and imitate him in the mirror," he said.

At 20, he traveled with his chorus to an international mu-

sic competition in Wales. The Modena group won first place, and Pavarotti began to dedicate himself to singing.

In 1961, Pavarotti won a local voice competition and with it a debut as Rodolfo in Puccini's "La Bohème."

Series of successes

He followed with a series of successes in small opera houses throughout Europe before his 1963 debut at Covent Garden in London, where he stood in for Di Stefano as Rodolfo.

Having impressed conductor Richard Bonynge, Pavarotti was given a role opposite Bonynge's wife, soprano Joan Sutherland, in a Miami production of "Lucia di Lamermoor." They subsequently signed him for a 14-week tour of Australia.

It was the recognition Pavarotti needed to launch his career. He also credited Sutherland with teaching him how to breathe correctly.

In the following years, Pavarotti made a series of major debuts, appearing at La Scala in Milan in 1965, San Francisco in 1967 and New York's Metropolitan Opera House in 1968. Other early venues included Vienna, Paris and Chicago.

Throughout his career, Pavarotti struggled with a much-publicized weight problem. His love of food caused him to balloon to a reported high of 180 kilograms (396 pounds) in 1978. "Maybe this time I'll really do it and keep it up," he said during one of his constant attempts at dieting.

In the mid-1970s, Pavarotti became a true media star. He appeared in television commercials and

and began appearing in hugely lucrative mega-concerts outdoors and in stadiums around the world. Soon came joint concerts with pop stars. A concert in New York's Central Park in 1993 drew 500,000 fans.

'The Three Tenors'

Pavarotti's recording of "Volare" went platinum in 1988.

In 1990, he appeared with Domingo and Carreras in a concert at the Baths of Caracalla in Rome for the end of soccer's World Cup. The concert was a huge success, and the record known as "The Three Tenors" was a best-seller and was nominated for two Grammy awards. The video sold over 750,000 copies.

With a follow-up album recorded at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles in 1994, the three tenors have outsold every other performer of classical music. A 1996 tour earned each tenor an estimated \$10 million.

Pavarotti liked to mingle with pop stars in his series of charity concerts, "Pavarotti & Friends," held annually in Modena. He performed with artists as varied as Ricky Martin, James Brown and the Spice Girls.

He also involved himself in humanitarian work, singing at benefit concerts to raise money for victims of tragedies, such as the war in Bosnia and an earthquake in December 1988 that killed 25,000 people in northern Armenia.

Malignant cancer

Pavarotti was preparing to leave New York in July 2006 to resume a farewell tour when doctors discovered a malignant pancreatic mass. He underwent surgery in a New York hospital, and all his remaining 2006 concerts were canceled.

In the summer of 2007, Pavarotti taught a group of selected students and worked on a recording of sacred songs, a work expected to be released in early 2008. He mostly divided his time between his home town, Modena, and his villa in the Adriatic seaside resort of Pesaro.

Pavarotti had three daughters with his first wife—Lorenza, Cristina and Giuliana; and one, Alice, with his second wife.

At his side when he died were his wife, Nicoletta; his four daughters; his sister, Gabriela; his nephews and close relatives and friends, Robson said.

Inquirer wires

Pinoys remember him . . .

From page A1

concertgoers yelled for his signature hit—the aria "Nessun Dorma" from Puccini's "Turandot."

It was the triumphal aria with its high Cs that hooked a generation of soccer fans worldwide to the Pavarotti name. He sang it when he appeared at the opening of the 1990 football World Cup finals in Italy, and the aria became the theme for the whole tournament.

Once-in-a-lifetime

It wasn't to be for the once-in-a-lifetime Manila concert. "I have a fever, but you are an incredible audience and I try to give my best," the tuxedo-clad Pavarotti said before signing his final song, "Granada."

Still, the audience showed its appreciation for Pavarotti's gallant effort with hearty rounds of applause for his program of operatic arias and Neapolitan songs, including "O Sole Mio." He was accompanied by the

Philippine Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Pavarotti's chosen conductor, Leone Magiera.

The concert, whose main beneficiary was the Padre Pio Lend-a-Hand Foundation of socialite Rosemarie "Baby" Arenas, was originally scheduled for March 18 and, by a strange coincidence, President Fidel V. Ramos was celebrating his 66th birthday the same day.

At Pavarotti's behest, however, organizers at the last minute rescheduled the concert to March 21. Organizers said that the tenor was afflicted with a slight cold and that it was unfair to the audience if he wasn't in top form. Ramos, who has been romantically linked to the socialite, did not attend the concert.

But then Vice President Joseph Estrada, who served as Arenas' escort, and members of Manila's high society came out in full force for what turned out to be the most expensive concert then.

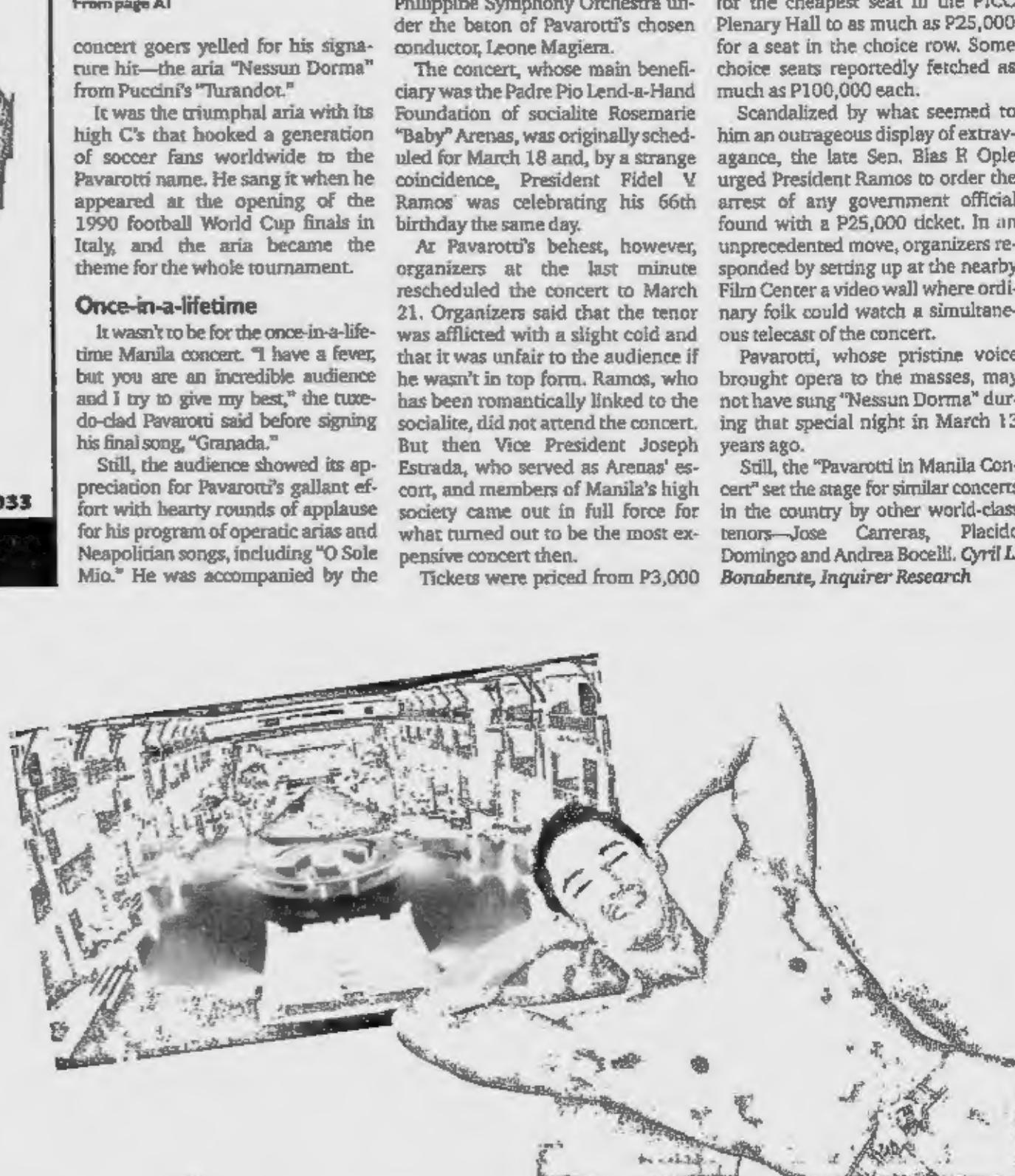
Tickets were priced from P3,000

for the cheapest seat in the PICC Plenary Hall to as much as P25,000 for a seat in the choice row. Some choice seats reportedly fetched as much as P100,000 each.

Scandalized by what seemed to him an outrageous display of extravagance, the late Sen. Bias R. Ople urged President Ramos to order the arrest of any government official found with a P25,000 ticket. In an unprecedented move, organizers responded by setting up at the nearby Film Center a video wall where ordinary folk could watch a simultaneous telecast of the concert.

Pavarotti, whose pristine voice brought opera to the masses, may not have sung "Nessun Dorma" during that special night in March 13 years ago.

Still, the "Pavarotti in Manila Concert" set the stage for similar concerts in the country by other world-class tenors—Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo and Andrea Bocelli. Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research



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32mm x 5.4mm - 130.00
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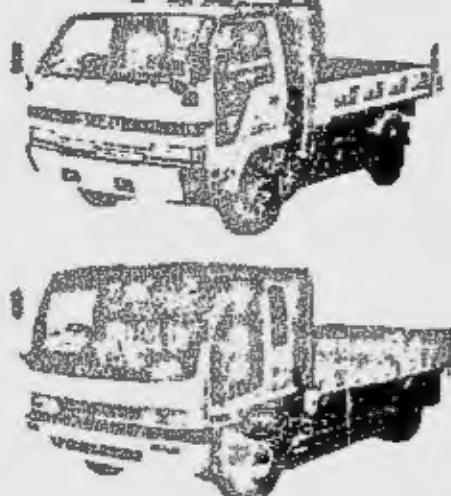
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PNP says Reds, not Erap backers, bigger threat

By Alcuin Papa

IT'S THE COMMUNISTS AND NOT THE supporters of Joseph Estrada who are the biggest threat as the Sandiganbayan gets ready to hand down its verdict in the ousted president's plunder trial, the Philippine National Police said yesterday.

Deputy Director General Avelino Razon, PNP deputy chief for administration, made the statement to reporters yesterday following reports communist rebels and other groups intending to take advantage of the verdict to sow violence might infiltrate the ranks of Estrada supporters.

"The NPA (New People's Army) is the biggest threat because they are armed and they have been waging their campaign for almost 37 years now," Razon said.

He said the 125,000-strong PNP was ready for any protest action to be taken by pro-Estrada groups.

Aside from these groups, Razon said the PNP was ready to face the NPA who might attack government installations in retaliation of the arrest of Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Ma. Sison in the Netherlands.

Guarding against terrorists

Razon said the police were also guarding against terrorists who might launch bomb attacks at the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the US draws near.

He said they were also looking out for attacks by extremist groups in the southern Philippines as the military offensive in Sulu and Basilan are ongoing.

"We've prepared for all of these because we see a confluence of events. Our preparations are not only for the Sandiganbayan verdict but also for the daily anticrime and antiterror operations," Razon said.

The PNP is currently on heightened alert, which could be upgraded to full alert on the day the Estrada verdict is released.

Heightened alert means half of the police force should be at their posts at all times. Full alert means all policemen should be at their posts.

Razon said the PNP was ready to secure Estrada when he travels from his resthouse

In Tanay, Rizal, where he is detained, to the Sandiganbayan in Quezon City.

Some 4,000 policemen will be deployed to guard Estrada on the day of the verdict. This would include 150 policemen who will guard Estrada's convoy and the Sandiganbayan courtroom. The rest of the policemen will be deployed outside the Sandiganbayan and Malacañang.

The antiriot police will be augmented by 2,000 soldiers. The PNP can also call for backup forces from the police commands in Region III and IV-A.

But so far, Razon said, they had not seen any threats against Estrada.

Sison was arrested by Dutch authorities last week for allegedly giving the order to kill his former comrades, Romulo Kintanar and Arturo Tabara, in the Philippines.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, a former spokesperson for Estrada, raised the issue of "overkill" in the deployment of thousands of policemen to secure the former President.

Chilling effect

The deployment of 6,000 policemen will have a chilling effect on... freedoms. The freedom of assembly... and the freedom to raise grievances," Rodriguez said.

He said having thousands of policemen guarding Estrada and his supporters "is a violation of human rights."

"I am reminded of the time President Estrada was arrested in 2001. He was escorted by 3,000 policemen. It was an overkill and the people reacted to that," Rodriguez said.

But PNP Director General Oscar Calderon said at yesterday's budget hearing in the House of Representatives: "You will not see the 6,000 (policemen announced earlier). That's just part of the planning."

The PNP had earlier announced 6,000 cops would be involved in the security deployment when the antigraft court hands down its verdict.

"(The thousands of policemen) will be stationed in strategic locations," Calderon said. He said they would only be called out if a security problem arose. With a report from Norman Bordadora

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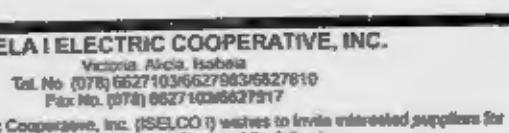
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply & Installation of Wireless WiFi IP Camera Security System at the Cavite Economic Zone

(PEZA-HO-2007-07)

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2007 intends to apply the sum of Pph 385,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply & Installation of Wireless WiFi IP Security Camera System at the Cavite Economic Zone (CEZ). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The PEZA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the following GOODS which shall be awarded to a single supplier/contractor.

WIFI CCD Color Camera with bracket + enclosure	10 units
CPU for DVR System	1 unit
Outdoor Wireless Access Point for WiFi	4 sets
UTP CAT5 Cable	1 roll
Installation & Setup	1 lot

The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietors, organizations with at least forty percent (40%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 8183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass eligibility check will be opened. The process of the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. Prospective bidders must have a minimum of five (5) years experience in the supply and installation of security cameras and should have experience in undertaking a single similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC.

5. In addition, bidders must have filed their latest annual income and business tax returns (VAT and/or Percentage Taxes) covering six (6) months immediately prior to the submission of bids via the Electronic Filing and Payment System (eFPS) of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

6. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the PEZA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.

7. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be Inspected and/or purchased by Interested Bidders from 07-17 September 2007, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos Only (P1,000.00) and submission of a certified copy of their PhilGEPS Registration Certificate. The method of payment will be cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

8. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 20 September 2007, 2:00 P.M. at the 8th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.

9. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 02 October 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than 1% of the ABC. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

10. Bid opening shall be on 02 October 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the 8th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Bldg, Roxas Blvd, corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

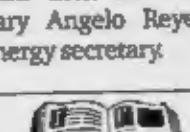
11. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.

12. The PEZA reserves the right to accept any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby insuring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. No. 881-8444 / Telefax No. 881-9567
E-mail: peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com
Website: www.peza.gov.ph

(PDI - Sept. 5, 6 & 7, 2007)

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Friday, September 7, 2007
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

Col 1:15-20

Luke 5:33-39

The scribes and Pharisees asked Jesus, "The disciples of John fast often and say long prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees. Why is it that your disciples eat and drink?" Then Jesus said to them, "You can't make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them. But later the bridegroom will be taken from them and they will fast in those days."

Jesus also told them this parable, "No one tears a piece from a new coat to put it on an old one; otherwise the new will be torn and the piece taken from the new will not match the old. No one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed as well. But new wine must be put into fresh skins. Yet no one who has tasted old wine is eager to get new wine, but says: The old is good."

Commentary
Christ is the image of the invisible God—we could pray with that forever. Christ is in all things—the holiness and power of God in a human person. Jesus' main work and mission was to reconcile us to one another in God's Word and his cross—the symbol of our being made one with God. Our God dwells with us in Jesus—in Word, Bread, the poor, the Spirit—it—and so there is a time to fast and a time to rejoice in God's nearness. Are we new garments and new wine—shelter and food, life for the world? We need to examine ourselves on the quality and the depth of our relationship to Christ the image of the invisible Holy One.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP PO Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City, Tel: 921-3984; Fax 921-7420; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Website: <http://www.bible.claret.org> (Claretian Publications in the Philippines) & <http://www.claretpublishers.org> (Claretian Missionaries in the Philippines)

Issuance of bid documentation checklist of qualification requirements

Pre-Qualification Conference

Submission / Opening of Bids

Checklist of Qualification Requirements are the following. (to be submitted during the pre-qualification conference)

1) Non-refundable filing fee in the amount of Three Thousand Pesos Only (P3,000.00) in the form of cash.

2) Complete set of legal documents of the company, SEC Registration, Articles of Incorporation and by-laws, company profile, business registration and license papers.

3) Audited Financial Statement (Balance Sheet and Income Statement) duly stamped and signed by the President/Chairman or Owner.

4) A Bid Bond amounting to 10% of the total amount of material and service requirements

The ISELCO I reserves the right to reject any or all bids for valid and justified reason, waive any

defects and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the competitive

bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made

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AIR FORCE HELICOPTERS made in China?

Why not, says the Philippine Air Force, as it dispatched this week a team of PAF pilots to China to evaluate some aircraft being offered for sale by a Chinese manufacturer that has partnered with a French company.

The delegation was led by Maj. Gen. Pedro Ile Insiero, a Huey pilot who heads the PAF's modernization office, said an Air Force official.

The team will be conducting test flights on the Chinese-made aircraft, said the official who requested anonymity for lack of authority to speak.

Sign of times

The official said the PAF's openness to buying Chinese aircraft was merely a "sign of the times," noting China's growing reputation as an industrialized country.

"They made an offer, so why not listen to them?" the official said, while stressing that the United States remains the Philippines' main mutual defense partner.

The PAF delegation's trip coincides with the five-day visit here this week of China's Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan.

It also comes amid worldwide alarm caused by large-scale recall of Chinese-made toys, toothpaste, candies, dog food, medicine and agricultural produce because of concerns over harmful chemicals in these products.

The official said this was not the first time Chinese firms had offered their products to the Armed Forces.

"They tried to sell pistols, handguns, rifles and ammunition before," the official said.

Commercial offer

He described the Chinese offer of aircraft as a "commercial offer" that would have to go through PAF bidding procedures.

Reuters reported on Wednesday that China had offered to sell eight utility helicopters to the Philippines' Armed Forces which is seeking to replace its Vietnam War-era aircraft.

A Philippine Air Force officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters that Beijing had invited the PAF to evaluate its tear-shaped Z-9 series utility helicopters manufactured by Harbin Aircraft Manufacturing Co.

On Monday, following a meeting with Cao, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro announced a Chinese grant of P90 million worth of equipment to the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Reuters said the grant would consist of nonlethal military equipment, including bulldozers and dump trucks for development projects in insurgency areas.

Nikko Dizon

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A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON BANKING LEADERSHIP



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Outstanding Teachers

Left to Right: Mr. Antonio S. Amikan, Jr. Chairman, Metrobank and Adviser, Metrobank Foundation, Inc., Mr. Aniceto M. Sobrepeña President, Metrobank Foundation, Inc. (ELEMENTARY LEVEL) Jeneby C. Cunanan, Fredo T. Laureles, Madeline P. Rivera, Leticia N. Palle (SECONDARY LEVEL) Cynthia B. Bangero, Norma C. Pacaigue, Ruben L. Abucayon, Ph.D., Glendale B. Lamiseria (HIGHER EDUCATION LEVEL) Caesar A. Saloma, Ph.D., Benilda S. Santos, Ph.D.

Higher Education level

BENILDA S. SANTOS, Ph.D.

Santos' devotion to teaching of Filipino language and literature, and her collection of published works, constitute her greatest contributions to education. Her passion for teaching is kept alive by her love of country and deep appreciation of Philippine culture, traits she tries to impart to her students at every opportunity for almost 30 years.

CAESAR A. SALOMA, Ph.D.

Saloma contends that the continued success of the scientific enterprise to shape human civilization depends greatly on the capacity of mentors to train the next generation of productive scientists. As the only Filipino and ASEAN scientist to have received the prestigious Galileo Galilei Awards, his achievements should encourage the next generation of scientists in the difficult but vital task of developing a scientific tradition in the country.

Secondary level

GLENDALE B. LAMISERIA

Lamiseria lives for "the joy of the classroom", and her innovative teaching strategies successfully integrate entrepreneurship skills in outreach activities that allow students to get involved in projects that benefit out-of-school youth. Aside from making math concepts easier to learn and appreciate, her teaching methods make education fun and relevant.

NORMA C. PACAIGUE

Pacaigue believes that teaching is a fulfillment of a mission that she received from God. After 38 years in the profession, she remains enthusiastic in her work as she inculcates the passion for life-long learning among her students.

RUBEN L. ABUCAYON, Ph.D.

Rather than teaching in order to live, Abucayon emphasizes that he lives in order to teach. His inspired contributions to the enhancement of science education over the past 14 years include an award-winning Strategic Intervention Material

CYNTHIA B. BANGER

Bangero's competence and skills complemented by her positive influence and admirable values are best remembered by her students. In her 26 years as a teacher, she imparts to her students the knowledge and skills to succeed with the strength of character to live meaningful lives.

Elementary level

FREDO T. LAURELES

Laureles has made pioneering contributions in the establishment of a Work Education Program at the Ateneo Grade School. Over the last 36 years, he has written books in industrial arts and authored numerous literary pieces which he uses in various outreach activities for streetchildren and indigenous communities in Mindoro.

JENELIJ C. CUNANAN

Cunanan received the best training at home and the inspiration to eventually pursue a career in teaching from her parents who were both educators. She regards her profession as a mission with the opportunity to touch the lives of students entrusted to her care.

MADELINE P. RIVERA

Rivera finds fulfillment in the numerous successes of students she has successfully mentored in her 18 years of teaching. A sought after trainer and adviser, she makes herself an example of discipline, diligence, perseverance, and hard work.

LETICIA N. PALLE

Palle uses homegrown methodologies and techniques to make mathematical concepts easier to understand – such as music, games, and even the outdoors – to impress upon her students better appreciation of the subject.

Spit it out

FORMER SOCIOECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETARY Romulo Neri is caught between the proverbial rock and a hard place. Or, perhaps more precisely, between the forbidding mountain of official loyalty and the Great Wall of personal conscience.

In media interviews he did not seek, answering questions he wished to avoid, Neri has suggested that something unusual took place in relation to **EDITORIAL** the controversial \$330-million contract, awarded to the Chinese firm ZTE, to create a National Broadband Network.

As the days drag on, and more details emerge, the controversy over the ZTE contract deepens. One of those details involves the alleged offer, to Neri, of a P200-million bribe. Asked on radio about it, Neri did not issue an outright denial—of the bribe offer, that is. Tellingly, he only said he was not the kind of person who accepted bribes. "I can't do that. It will be [on] my conscience and I believe in bad karma."

But did such an offer actually take place? "It's really difficult for me to say yes or no," he said. "It's difficult to prove either way."

Now this is interesting. Neri is no technocratic babe in this country's overgrown political woods; he has served as budget secretary and, in Congress, as chief budget planning officer. He is no stranger to the stratagems of wily politicians. Surely he knows—in the depths of his conscience, where his belief in karma rests—when and whether a bribe is being offered or not.

We can understand his hesitation about proving a claim of bribery. The issue may well go down to his word against that of another official (whether of the Philippine government or the Chinese firm, we do not yet know for certain). That will be difficult to prove. But we cannot sympathize with his alleged difficulty in judging whether a bribe had in fact been offered or not.

Even if he was unsure then, surely the details that have emerged since now tell him that something was definitely amiss.

There is a good reason why Neri is being sought for his comments. The Neda board he headed approved the controversial plan to create yet another multibillion-peso information-technology infrastructure for the government.

The NBN initiative, as approved, called for a build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme, which would not cost the government a single centavo. At one meeting with Chinese officials, he recalled the other day, he "clarified that this is the position of government at the time—no guarantee, no loan. It was shown in the Neda board minutes."

One of the inglorious mysteries of the NBN scandal, however, involves the sudden metamorphosis of the initiative from a BOT project to a government program funded by a government-sourced loan. How did this happen? "It's the DOTC that should answer," Neri said.

This suggests that his answer to the question of whether a bribe was in fact offered to him—"It's really difficult for me to say yes or no. It's difficult to prove either way"—is a calibrated response. It is meant to negotiate that difficult passage between two impossible masters, to please both the requirements of official loyalty and the demands of personal conscience.

In this light, his repeated references during the interviews to Executive Order 464, which he says requires the President to sign off on his appearance before a legislative inquiry into the ZTE contract, seem to us to be a plea for help. He wants to be given permission to say what he knows.

To that, we say: Say what you know, with or without permission. When the bribe offer took place, turning it down was a triumph of personal conscience; not talking about it, or perhaps privately bringing it to the attention of higher officials, was an exercise in official loyalty.

Now that the sordid details of the ZTE contract have started to emerge, however, the dictates of conscience have changed. Now that the very thing Neri and other government officials loyal to the people wanted to avoid, namely the imposition of yet another corruption-swollen debt on the government to fund what has become a questionable project, has become reality, the dictates of conscience require Neri to tell us, even at the cost of breaking his oath of loyalty to the administration, what he really knows.

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The evils of cross-ownership in power industry (2)

(Continued from Sept. 5)

THE PREVIOUS COLUMN DWELT ON PROPOSALS to amend the Epira law (endorsed by President Macapagal-Arroyo) because instead of reducing power rates, which was its original intent, it resulted in even higher rates and, in the future, even a worse situation. One of the major flaws of Epira was in allowing cross-ownership of corporations in the power industry.

The previous column discussed three of the five evils of cross-ownership: (1) it resulted in higher power rates; (2) it subverts the development of the power generation sector; and (3) it will cause billions of pesos in losses to the government. This column dwells on the last two evils.

Evil No. 4. It corrupts and impedes good governance. Cross-ownership breeds an enormous monopoly in both generation and distribution sectors that will overpower the regulatory agencies, energy policy, and, worst, control politics in the country.

An analysis of the present composition of the Senate is not very encouraging. Seasoned political analysts agree that the Lopez empire's influence in the Senate is formidable. It also holds a significant sway in the House of Representatives. It owns and maintains a formidable media machinery that can make or unmake a politician seeking national office like a seat in the Senate, the vice presidency, or the presidency.

Already, even while the committee assignments in the Senate were still being worked out, Sen. Joker Arroyo publicly declared that "there is no need to amend the Epira." He said only the Joint Congressional Power Council (JCPC) "is needed to do the job."

Such a premature declaration dismissing the "urgent need" to amend one of the most abusive and flawed pieces of legislation ever passed by any Congress in the republic bodies ill for all consumers. To understand Arroyo better, it was during his watch as executive secretary of President Corazon Aquino that Meralco was turned over to the Lopez lock, stock and barrel with

As I See It



Neal H. Cruz

nary an audit and evaluation of what the Lopezes ought to have been given back. A franchise area far bigger than the original franchise of Meralco was given to the Lopezes. They got more than what should have been given back to them and what they did not own at all.

The evils of patronage politics and the power and influence of money and a media machine certainly aggravate the culture of corruption in the country. It also makes the task of amending Epira a daunting effort.

Evil No. 5. Electricity will continue to be overpriced and abuse of consumers will remain unchecked. The accompanying disinformation campaigns that this behemoth can launch to protect its interest or hide abuse from the unsuspecting public results in a misinformed public, very susceptible to abuse.

Today, the Philippines' power rates are among the most uncompetitive in Asia, thus affecting our country's industrial and commercial performance. Tens of millions of dependents of overseas Filipino workers see their hard-earned remittances eroded by the high electric rates. No matter how hard our people work, a huge amount of their income is eaten up by skyrocketing electricity rates. Now is our chance to excise an evil in our system to give our people some measure of relief from already difficult times.

Completely banning cross-ownership between power distributors and generators is not only urgent but a matter of national survival. We cannot afford its evils.

Speaking of another administration senator, Miriam Defensor-Santiago has been endorsed by the Philippine government to a

seat in the prestigious International Court of Justice (ICJ) based in The Hague. It is one of those rare decisions that have the support of our legal community even if there is a joke going the rounds that says, "If it would get her out of the Senate and the Philippines, by all means let's support her appointment to the ICJ."

Santiago was not nominated to the ICJ by President Arroyo. GMA merely acted on a recommendation of a search committee called the National Group to Nominate the Philippine Candidate for the ICJ and composed of independent-minded individuals who do not necessarily kowtow to Palace whums. It was composed of maverick Supreme Court Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, former Integrated Bar of the Philippines president Jose Vicente Salazar, former Supreme Court Justice Florentino Feliciano and former Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo.

The search committee, in turn, went to the legal community to ask for nominees. The Supreme Court's nomination is a requirement of the ICJ. Most major associations in the legal community, including the IIBP submitted their nominations.

The view is that the candidate must be among the top legal minds of the nominating country. And based on that criteria alone, our legal community had only one nominee: Miriam Defensor-Santiago. Even Chief Justice Reynato Puno had only one name in mind: Santiago.

Winning the ICJ seat is an uphill battle both for Santiago and the Philippines, however. While we may get the support of ASEAN and Asian countries for the ICJ seat that will be vacated by Jordan in 2009, the Jordanian representative just might run for reelection. And she is reportedly the present ICJ vice president, making it a major challenge to go up against her.

But if Santiago wins that seat, it would be a gain both for the Philippines and the ICJ.

By all means, respect privacy—but whose?

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL ARROYO'S SENATE allies want to block the Garcia investigation because to play the infamous tapes will "violate[e] the civil rights of Mrs. Arroyo." Why, even President Arroyo's own partisans now recognize her voice on the tapes! And now they threaten to "pursue a restraining order by going to the Supreme Court." Ah, finally, now we will even get the highest court of the land to confirm it. How I wish they make good on that threat.

Ms. Arroyo's allies are caught between two contradictory positions: "No, that wasn't Gloria speaking on the purloined tapes, but you can't play them because Gloria didn't consent to the wiretap when she spoke." As the proverb goes, they want to eat their cake, and eat yours too.

Let us look at the language of the Anti-Wiretapping Law, RA 4200. Any tape "obtained or secured . . . in violation of the preceding sections of this Act" is inadmissible in any proceeding. Those "preceding sections" say: "It shall be unlawful for any person, not being authorized by all the parties to any private communication . . . to tap any wire or cable [or] to secretly overhear, intercept, or record such communication . . ."

One scenario is that neither "Ma'am" nor "Garcia" fesses up. Sen. Panfilo Lacson moves to have the tapes played, and Arroyo partisans object on the basis that the parties hadn't authorized the wiretap. How they will prove that, I have no idea. They are invoking the rights of two phantom figures, who have voices but no names other than aliases. Ma'am and Garcia must step forward to say that they did not authorize the recording.

The only conceivable way is to establish a legal presumption, and shift the onus to the proponent. In other words, the pro-GMA block will say, "If you want to play the tapes, first you must show that both Ma'am and Garcia authorized the wiretap." Wrong. It's the other way around, guys. Evidence is admissible unless irrelevant and incompetent. If you wish to exclude evidence, it falls upon you to object and show why it should be excluded, in this case, because the

PASSION FOR REASON



Raul C. Pangalangan

parties didn't consent to the eavesdropping.

Perhaps, I can imagine, a court will presume otherwise—in other words, assume that there was no consent—only if the bugged conversation was so obviously private, say, a romantic exchange of sweet nothings between two people head over heels in love. After all, that is what lies at the heart of the right to privacy, the right "to be let alone" insulated in a zone off-limits to the officious and the interloper. But the Garcia tapes have been played before the Congress—and indeed by Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye—and what we heard was about election fixing, which strikes at the heart of democratic governance.

Indeed, recall the scope of the Anti-Wiretapping Law: "any private communication." Garcia and Ma'am had to talk in secret because what they were doing was illegal. By no stretch of the imagination can anyone describe that conversation as "private."

Of course, it will be argued that this puts the cart before the horse. How can we know what they discussed unless first we eavesdrop? But, here again we are trapped by history. The fact is that both Bunye—the President's alter ego, her "second self," or "the other I"—and Congress, during the hearings chaired by Rep. Gilbert Remulla, have heard the tapes, which were broadcast live over ANC. Again, I suppose a court might be stricter had the tapes revealed nothing more than a verbal trust, but will allow the bootstrapping in this case because of the countervailing right to information on matters of public concern.

Finally, assuming, as GMA's allies contend,

that GMA's right to privacy is at stake here, can that right be invoked for her in absentia by others? Can strangers not party to a conversation assert the parties' right to privacy? If we allow the senators to assert the constitutional rights of a third party, do we not implicitly allow them as well to waive those rights? Isn't that a rather dangerous precedent? Again, I recognize exceptions where the party is too infirm to assert its rights.

The other scenario is that former Election Commissioner Virgilio Gardillano is summoned to the Senate, steps forward, admits that he is Garcia, and declares that he hadn't authorized the wiretap. As in a chess game, sacrifice a pawn to save the queen. After all, all it takes to block the tapes under RA 4200 is even for just one party to the conversation to withhold consent, assuming, of course, that theirs was a "private"—not public—communication.

Finally, this reading is fully in keeping with a US case cited rather prominently during the initial skirmish on the Senate floor, *Bartnicki v. Vopper*. What was bugged was a cell-phone conversation between school union officers about on-going labor negotiations, during which acts to intimidate recalcitrant school board members were discussed. An unknown person intercepted the call, and left the tape in the mailbox of a local radio station, which played the tapes. When the station was later sued for damages (not for the purpose of prior restraint, mind you), the US Supreme Court said that the "negotiations in question were a matter of public concern" and "privacy concerns give way when balanced against the interest in publishing matters of public importance." Two justices, Breyer and O'Connor, used the term "a matter of unusual public concern."

The Constitution protects the right to privacy—and the Anti-Wiretapping Law limits its protection to "private communications"—but also speaks of the right to "information on matters of public concern." Here we face no agony over first principles. Let the Garcia tapes be played.

OPINION

End of boom-and-bust cycle?

THE GOVERNMENT REPORT THAT THE GROSS domestic product (GDP) grew 7.5 percent in the second quarter of 2007, relative to the second quarter of 2006, was greeted with disbelief by the general public and political quarters. It was also met with guarded optimism by economists and local businessmen as well as foreign risk-assessment analysts.

The growth topped the 7.1 percent in the first quarter of 2007. It was the highest growth achieved by the economy in the last 20 years. According to Bloomberg News survey, it was the third fastest among six Southeast Asian economies, after Singapore and Vietnam.

The skepticism of the public and political sectors stems from the credibility problems of President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration and reflects its rock-bottom trust and confidence rating in public opinion polls. It is at variance with the view of the business community and economists who are inclined at least to take the government's claim seriously.

These two contrasting views draw a relief map of the different perspectives from which the political sector and the business sector assess developments in the economy. Of the two perspectives, the political view appears to have stronger influence on public opinion, whose volatility reflects the instability of the political crises that have rocked the administration during the past six years.

The growth figures released by the government prompted President Arroyo to claim that the end of the recurrent boom-and-bust cycle that has put the economy on a tailspin since the 1970s is in sight. She said that based on the 7.5-percent growth in the second quarter of 2007, she expected the economy to achieve the growth target of 6.1 percent to 6.2 percent this year.

"Ours is the only administration that has not experienced any negative growth in any quarter," the President pointed out. "And it has been a six-year administration, so it has been sustained. In fact, we should have gone through two boom-

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



and-bust cycles by now, but we never did."

At first glance, this is correct from her perspective, but some economists quickly asked: Is this short-term gain a fluke? Is it sustainable?

Its sustainability is one of the main issues from which the President's optimistic claim has been attacked. It is the most credible line of attack because it is well-informed and does not come from partisan political quarters. The claim has also been attacked on the grounds that the government figures may have been based on "doctored" and self-serving data, and from the perspective that growth had not filtered down to alleviate poverty and benefit the poor masses.

The last two modes of attack do not help illuminate the issue of sustainability, since they represent knee-jerk reactions that raise more questions than offer evidence of tampering with statistics or of questionable methodology in the interpretation of data. The filter-down aspect of growth has also long been a conventional critique of growth. This critique usually comes from the Left and even elitist politicians, including those with populist pretensions, as a cheap shot to discredit those who are in power.

The 2006 and the 2007 first semester economic expansion took place in a period of relatively less turbulence than the crises-wracked years from 2001, when Malacañang was stormed by a mob of followers of deposed President Joseph Estrada, up to 2005, when the administration was rocked by a wave of public protests churned up by the Garcillano tapes scandal alleging rigging of the 2004 presidential election.

The 2006 and 2007 growth surge occurred in a period of relative political stability, giving rise to questions whether the political milieu had something to do with the robust growth, although modest growth did take place from 2001 to 2004.

Indeed, the 2005 crisis did not shoot down growth, and it would seem that the economy was impervious to the political turbulence. Economists raising the issue of the sustainability of high growth and of the end of the boom-and-bust cycle have come up with evidence that politics has something to do with the expansion during the past 18 months. During that period, an election has been held, establishing the control of the administration over the House of Representatives and a second impeachment attempt was quashed in 2006.

In its briefings, the National Economic and Development Authority attributed the growth in 2006 to higher personal consumption due to a slowdown in inflation and increase in remittances from overseas Filipino workers. Government statistics point to the 33 percent growth in the mining sectors in the second quarter of 2007, though mining accounted for only 2 percent of the total economic output. The service sector grew 8.4 percent in the second quarter of 2007, compared to 6.7 percent in the second quarter the year before. But these gains were undermined by slow growth in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors, and the sharp drop in imports.

Augusto Santos, the acting secretary of socio-economic planning, has admitted that expenditures related to the May 2007 elections may have been a factor in the second quarter growth. Earlier in 2004, an election year, it was pointed out the economy unexpectedly grew by 6.1 percent, compared to less than 5 percent in 2003. The government invested heavily in public infrastructure, roads, bridges, airports and seaports spending 39.6 percent more this year than in 2006.

The election expenditure factor is seasonal. Its contribution to the growth surge reinforces skepticism over the sustainability of the robust growth.

Light in the dark

IT IS NOT AN EASY BOOK TO READ, A COLLECTION OF letters many of which have a literally dark quality, full of spiritual torment, doubt, desolation, even hopelessness. The book, "Come Be My Light," has received much publicity because the letters were written by Mother Teresa, one of the foremost spiritual icons of the 20th century. Yet the letters, written to her spiritual advisers and confidants, show that for nearly 50 years, maybe up to her death, Mother Teresa felt God was not in her life. In her own words, her smile was often "a mask."

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

It all seems to have started in 1948, when she left her work as a teacher with the Loreto Sisters to work in the streets, taking care of beggars, abandoned children, the sick and the dying. Barely two months after she began her work, she wrote, "What tortures of loneliness... I wonder how long will my heart suffer this?"

In the years that followed, she would send off more letters describing her loneliness and her doubt. In 1953, she wrote about "a terrible darkness... as if everything was dead." In 1956: "Such deep longing for God—and... repulsed—repulsed—no faith—no love—no zeal." In 1959: "If there be no God—there can be no soul—if there is no soul, then Jesus—You also are not true." Eventually, she began to refer to God in her letters as the "Absent One."

There was a brief respite in Mother Teresa's dark nights in 1958, when Pope Pius XII died and she prayed to the deceased Pope for "proof" that God was pleased with the religious order she had set up, the Missionaries of Charity. In one of her letters, Mother Teresa said that her "darkness," her "strange suffering of 10 years" had disappeared.

The relief lasted five weeks, when she again returned "in the tunnel." In 1959, she asked why there was so much "pain and darkness" in her heart. In 1962, when she won the Ramon Magsaysay Award for International Understanding, she wrote: "This means nothing to me, because I don't have Him." In 1979, three months before receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, she wrote a priest: "Jesus has a very special love for you... (but) as for me, the silence and the emptiness is so great, that I look and do not see—Listen and do not hear—the tongue moves (in prayer) but does not speak..."

A 1995 letter still has her describing her "spiritual dryness." She died in 1997.

Sainthood

Mother Teresa's extraordinary letters were collected, edited and published by Fr. Brian Kolodiejchuk, who was one of her spiritual advisers and is now her postulator, meaning the main person petitioning for her canonization. Ironically, the letters, filled with spiritual doubt, are intended to support the contention that Mother Teresa is indeed a saint.

All this should make us rethink traditional religiosity—and spirituality. I will admit I was always slightly cynical about Mother Teresa. When she visited the Philippines many years ago, I felt she was too apolitical, applying "band-aid" solutions to poverty and ending up being used by the Marcoses' junta.

Her letters now show another side to Mother Teresa: of someone who continued to serve the poor even when she felt God was not in her life. Time's Sept. 3 issue (<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1655415,00.html>) offers diverse opinions on Mother Teresa's dark nights. The atheists have had a field day here. Christopher Hitchins, who criticized Mother Teresa in his "The Missionary Position" and who recently published another book, "God is not Great," asserts that Mother Teresa herself probably realized that "religion is a human fabrication."

Newsweek quotes extensively from Dr. Richard Gotlieb of the New York Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, who proposes that Mother Teresa had a very strong personality oriented toward high achievement, and therefore might find ways to punish herself, ironically, as she achieved more. Perhaps she saw this as almost sinful, and had to compensate. She seemed almost fearful of her achievements, perhaps seeing them as a temptation to pride. She in fact wanted her letters destroyed, worried that readers would then focus on her, rather than on Christ.

Reading her letters did make me feel she was shuttling between humility and humiliation.

Even Catholic theologians have their own interpretations of these "dark nights," which have been reported as part of the religious mystical experience. The 16th-century St. John of the Cross introduced the term "dark nights," suffering for many years from this torment but asserting this was part of spiritual growth.

Theologians say there are two types of these dark nights. One is purgative, preparing the contemplative for a firm union with Christ, while the other is "reparative," continually returning to emulate Christ's suffering.

The Christian mystics' fixation on suffering could sometimes be morbid, as with the visions of the 19th-century German nun, Anne Enmerich, who put everything in writing, blood, gore and all, and which Mel Gibson transformed into that controversial movie.

Hope and despair

I've wondered if there are more mundane explanations to all of Mother Teresa's dark nights. Could she have been overwhelmed by the poverty and suffering she saw in the streets of Kolkata (Calcutta)? When she first set out to work with the sick and the dying, she was filled with hope, talking about "the Voice" that instructed her to pursue a new mission. Yet after she started working, despair seemed to descend. Many others have wondered, too, about the existence of God upon seeing the "evil" of poverty.

Religious people like Mother Teresa would have sought refuge, and strength, from prayer and from a sense of divine presence. She did not find this presence, but never turned her back on her ministry.

For the more secular, life can be just as precarious. I wrote about dark nights only last month, a response to all the depressing developments in the Philippines and in the world. What then is there to cling to, except a faith in humanity wanting to believe people are basically good amid all the corruption and greed we see around us, and that we all have to keep pushing on, doing what's right.

As I said at the beginning of the article, "Come Be My Light" is not easy to read. Maybe after a few more reads, her letters might tell us how to find some light, no matter how briefly, in the long dark nights we all have.

How the law is applied here

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

ON ANY GIVEN NIGHT, GIVEN ANY FLIMSY EXCUSE, police will swoop down on an urban poor community, round up all the men, force them to stand in line and then strip down to their underwear, the better for the authorities to spot those bearing tattoos and other gang insignia, and then haul them off to the police precinct.

True, such *sosas*, borrowed from the term popularized during the Japanese occupation when such midnight raids were common, are sometimes covered by TV news stations, more for their sensational footage than public interest ramifications, I suspect. But for the most part, public reaction is confined to dismay and mild alarm, and while the families of the men uncenitiously arrested—without warrant or charges—cry buckets and fear for the men's safety, the good citizens of the land shrug their shoulders and may even tell themselves: "Well, at least the police are protecting us from the riff-raff."

But let the police try the same thing in a middle-class village or an upper-class home, and you can expect a chorus of protestations, with lawyers and family crying "human rights violation" and "police brutality."

Such is justice in our land, where the application of the law is influenced by one's socio-economic status, the prominence of one's friends and law firm, and even the nature of the crime. Some years back, scions of prominent families engaged in a shoot-out in the Greenhills area where a policeman was wounded, if I remember right. No one was even brought in for questioning, and while the police chattered threatening noises, no charges were even filed. Some days later, rival gangs in Navotas engaged in a brawl and the police swooped in and arrested everyone, no questions asked.

WE see such disparities at work today.

A promising student of UP Diliman, about to graduate from his undergraduate course and planning to enter law school, is brought to a hospital "dead on arrival," with bruises all over his body. Authorities suspect he died in the course of a fraternity hazing, mainly because the victim told friends he was going to one that day, and because the doctor who

brought his body to the hospital (and immediately fled the scene) has a son who belongs to the suspect fraternity.

Everyone, including the family of Cris Anthony Mendez, the fatality, keeps quiet at first, but with increasing media attention and the collective anger of university authorities and students, police are forced to respond. The NBI "invites" several people to shed light on the death of Mendez. But, save for the doctor at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center who attended to Mendez, everyone else treats the NBI summons like it was an invitation to a tea party. Dr. Francisco Cruz Jr., the hospital official who drove a dead Mendez to the hospital, demurs and sends his lawyer and promises to submit an affidavit later. Two members of the Sigma Rho Fraternity, a UP College of Law frat which counts several politicians and officials as alumni, don't even bother to send a representative.

Meanwhile, the harshest punishment meted out so far to anyone suspected of involvement in Mendez's death has been the stripping of Ariel Paolo Ante, another Sigma Rho who reportedly recruited Mendez, of his post as student council president of the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance. Ante is censured for his failure "to exercise principled and moral leadership," but he must consider that small potatoes, considering that he and his bros face charges for the death of a young man who had entrusted his life to their tender mercies.

AND speaking of skewed justice, what about Willie Revillame and his home station, ABS-CBN? Just weeks after his removal from the list of

those indicted for the Ultra tragedy, where 70 people, most of them women, died in a stampede of those eager to gain entry to the anniversary celebration of Revillame's noontime game show "Wowowee," here was Revillame on TV once again inditing himself with a "technical glitch" on his "Willyonaryo" game segment.

The mechanics of the game and the "glitch" are too complicated to get into here. (You can watch the incident on YouTube if you're so inclined.) Suffice it to say that Revillame and his network were sufficiently embarrassed to issue a string of clarifications and apologies.

But to demonstrate the personalistic nature of our society, what catapulted the incident to headlines were not the charges of possible rigging of a TV game show, but the exchange of tearful admonitions and angry recriminations between Revillame and a host of a rival show, Joey de Leon of "Eat Bulaga," aired on GMA-7.

After De Leon made snide, but anonymous, remarks about "cheating" on other shows, Revillame devoted a huge segment of his show the next day to castigate De Leon for his harsh words, footage which made it to the evening news of Channel 2 that day.

The next day, "Wowowee" hosted a show for the families of the Marines slain in Basilan and for other military personnel. But even the tear-soaked proceedings could not make the public forget the "technical glitch" that made some people suspect game shows are not the games of chance they claim to be.

Official reaction so far has been limited to public threats of a Senate investigation into the conduct of game shows and a belated inquiry by the Department of Trade, which has jurisdiction over such matters. Most laughingly, the chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, which governs the contents and ratings of TV shows, tried to put an end to the controversy by her "motherly" counseling of the two hosts to end their word war.

This makes me wonder if the MTRCB chair sees herself as primarily a counselor for TV hosts rather than a regulator out to protect the public interest.

Lost books

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R Ocampo



JESSICA ZAFRA, WHO HAS AN UNCANNY knack for finding the most engaging books in the most obscure places or bargain bins, gifted me with "The Book of Lost Books: An Incomplete History of All the Great Books You'll Never Read" by Stuart Kelly (Random House, 2003). Heck, it's another way to enlarge my stock of useless information, but it was quite a treat to know that there is more to great authors, from Homer and Ovid to Hemingway and Dylan Thomas, than we know about or were forced to read in school.

Authors have been known to lose or destroy their own manuscripts. Sometimes they get help from fire, flood, termites and the most destructive of all, fellow humans. Then we have the destruction of great libraries, from the legendary one in Alexandria to medieval scriptoriums ransacked by barbarians.

In our own time and place we have seen much the same happen. The Philippine Library and Museum that boasted the finest collection of Filipiniana in its time was one of the casualties of the Battle for Manila in 1945. The late historian Teodoro Agoncillo related how he had packed his most important books and brought them to the University of the Philippines Library at the outbreak of the war, assuming that the enemy would respect an academic institution. Many other scholars and collectors, like Jaime C. de Veyra and E. Arsenio Manuel, felt the same way and deposited their precious libraries in UP, only to watch helplessly as the Japanese made a bonfire from their books. You have to be a researcher to get an idea of what was lost during the war.

Over a decade ago, when I was researching in the Great Reading Room of the British Library in Bloomsbury, London, I requested a rare 17th-century pamphlet on the Philippines and was told that it could not be located. I requested the same item thrice that day and got the same result, so I sought out a supervising librarian and inquired why it could not be found. She looked through

her records and declared, "Well, Mr. Ocampo, I'm afraid you will have to blame the Germans for the loss of this item."

I didn't quite understand what she meant, so she explained, "London was bombed in 1944, a section of the British Library was hit and one of the casualties of that bombing is the book you need."

If the book does not exist, I asked, why keep it in the card catalogue? Can't you at least strike it off or mark it as such? Smiling, the librarian replied, "That's just it, you have to blame the Germans during the war for destroying the book you need today."

When I related the above to some friends, I was told a story, probably apocryphal, that there was an unwritten agreement between the British and the Germans regarding air raids. While maximum death and destruction was the object of the game, it was said that the Germans agreed to spare Oxford and Cambridge from air raids and in exchange the British were to spare Heidelberg and Tübingen.

If the story is true, it would show that in the midst of the last great war, these four great university towns were saved. Was it because the commanders were alumni of these universities, or did they, despite the war, retain respect for academic institutions?

Manila was an open city, the University of the Philippines campus on Padre Fausto was obviously an academic institution, but its library went up in smoke. Some great Philippine books we will never read.

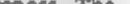
I remember going over the "Florante at Laura"

Comments are welcome at ocampo@ateneo.edu.

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The National Association of Philippine Newspapers



Living heroes in health sector

IN THIS SEASON OF RECOGNIZING THE LIVING HEROES OF OUR TIME, LET US REMEMBER OUR HEALTH WORKERS IN THE HOSPITALS, IN THE HEALTH CENTERS, IN THE CLINICS AND IN THE COMMUNITIES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. THESE SILENT HEROES BRAVE THE HAZARD OF BEING INFECTED BY THEIR PATIENTS, THEY BRAVE THE HAZARD OF TRAVELING ON DANGEROUS ROADS AT NIGHT TO REPORT FOR THEIR NIGHT-SHIFT DUTIES, AND THEY BRAVE THE HAZARD OF BEING LABELED ANTI-GOVERNMENT WHEN THEY SERVE THOSE IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES.

In some instances, they have to

endure harsh words from their patients or from their superiors. And all these they face—day in, day out, every regular working day and during holidays, morning, noon and night.

Most of them have low salaries. Some work as contractuels for indefinite periods of time. Many have left us in search of higher pay, better working conditions and more professional opportunities abroad. Some are forced to stay on because they have no money with which to process their departure. Others are simply not inclined to

venture beyond the borders of what is familiar and, probably, safer for them.

There are those who have the means to leave but have opted to continue practicing their profession here, and somehow try to improve the health care delivery system for our people's sake.

Health institutions and communities function effectively because of the contributions of each member to make the system work as a whole unit. We have to promote the dignity of work of each health worker at all levels. We have to promote honesty and re-

spect for each other, regardless of our official position in our institution, be it government or private.

Let us give our heroes due compensation and the appreciation for their efforts to care for the sick and to raise health awareness among our people. These will give them the right reasons to stay and be part of our united effort to improve our country's health for the better.

—VIRGINIA M. SULIT, MD,
virg_sulit@yahoo.com.ph

Elizaga's rap denied

PLEASE EXTEND US the courtesy of publishing our brief reply to Elson T. Elizaga's letter (INQUIRER, 9/3/07).

Elizaga made a very serious allegation that we were commissioned by the local government of Cagayan de Oro to downgrade the Huluga archaeological site. We were not. Normally, in such a situation, a strong response is appropriate.

Elizaga has, however, consistently shown that he does not know what he is talking about. We, therefore, do not take offense.

The public can check all the records at the Cagayan de Oro City Hall, the National Library, the National Museum, the Main Library of the University of the Philippines, and the Archaeological Studies Program Library and ask for the publications and technical reports of our small community of archaeologists.

If we are truly guilty, let the proper charges be filed against us. One can wager Elizaga will not need a lawyer; he seems to think he knows the law well, enough to handle his own case. Enough said.

—VICTOR PAZ, Ph.D.,
LEE ANTHONY NERI,
MSC, JUN G. CAYRON,
MA, ANNA JANE
CARLOS, MICHELLE
EUSEBIO, VITO
PAOLO HERNANDEZ,
ANDREA MALAYA M.
BAGRAGIO, EMIL
CHARLES ROBLES,
graduate students,
members of the
UP-Archaeological
Studies Program
Cagayan de Oro
Project,
University of the
Philippines, Diliman,
Quezon City

No Muslim opposition to GK project

IN THE AUG. 28 ISSUE OF THE INQUIRER, Margaux G. Ortiz reported that the Muslim residents of Datu Paglas, Maguindanao were "wary of help from their more fortunate countrymen—especially those who worshipped a God with a different name from theirs."

Ortiz's article missed one important fact: The project isn't a case of spoon-fed, "give-all" done.

(1) Residents donated their counterpart or equity—the site for the housing project; and (2) local residents cleared the area and helped in the quarrying and delivery of filling material and sand and gravel. Had they been allowed to join in the construction work, many would have been more than willing to help.

The Gawad Kalinga (GK) representative then, to whom beneficiaries are very thankful, even acknowledged the intervention of businessman Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas III (the older brother of then Mayor Totoy Paglas) "for donating and allowing Gawad Kalinga to build houses for the poor in Datu Paglas, and for all his support." Like the Christian donors of GK, the Muslim providers of the site also do not wish to be identified because they do not want to let the "left hand see what the right doeth" (In doing charity), as taught by both Jesus and Prophet Muhammad.

True faith isn't measured by poverty or fortune; neither does it depend on the believer's way of calling the Creator's name: Remember that God's people (Israel) were poor and oppressed by the "more fortunate" unbelievers.

Elizaga has, however, consistently shown that he does not know what he is talking about. We, therefore, do not take offense.

The public can check all the records at the Cagayan de Oro City Hall, the National Library, the National Museum, the Main Library of the University of the Philippines, and the Archaeological Studies Program Library and ask for the publications and technical reports of our small community of archaeologists.

If we are truly guilty, let the proper charges be filed against us. One can wager Elizaga will not need a lawyer; he seems to think he knows the law well, enough to handle his own case. Enough said.

—VICTOR PAZ, Ph.D.,
LEE ANTHONY NERI,
MSC, JUN G. CAYRON,
MA, ANNA JANE
CARLOS, MICHELLE
EUSEBIO, VITO
PAOLO HERNANDEZ,
ANDREA MALAYA M.
BAGRAGIO, EMIL
CHARLES ROBLES,
graduate students,
members of the
UP-Archaeological
Studies Program
Cagayan de Oro
Project,
University of the
Philippines, Diliman,
Quezon City

As reported, Jose Ibañez, president of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), in a letter to the Philippine Electricity Market Corporation (PEMC), is demanding P9 billion as balance payment for electricity traded during the months of August through September 2006. The demand was made after the Energy Regulatory Commission found PSALM innocent of price manipulation during that period, contrary to the separate findings of PEMC's Market Surveillance Committee.

To us, the demand letter means that PSALM is insisting that the market price in those months were indeed the price set by the forces of supply and demand and not a result of price manipulation by its three trading peers. With this, PSALM is saying it deserves to be paid the market rate of its electricity traded at WESM at that time—in full, thus the whopping balance of P9 billion.

Would this translate to another increase (about P2.15/kWh) that the hapless Meralco consumers will once again shoulder?

Perhaps, we need to ask these two questions first: Does PSALM really have a basis for collecting this P9 billion from PEMC and does PSALM really incur losses when it trades at WESM?

We believe that the electricity

traded by PSALM at WESM is from the National Power Corp.'s independent power producers (IPPs), like the Iligan, Pagbilao and Sual plants. Hence, all electricity traded is the subject of a power purchase contract expressed in peso price per kilowatt-hour paid by us, the consumers, through Napocor's AGRA (automatic generation rate adjustments) charges imbedded in our generation rate. This automatic adjustment used to be called the PPA. Since the power generated by these IPPs is already paid, this demand payment of PSALM will result in double charging which the consumers will have to bear. We oppose this demand of PSALM.

The IPP capacities go through the WESM trading only for the purpose of dispatching—meaning the rate per kWh under these IPP contracts will not at all be affected since these contracted rates are settled outside of market transactions. Incidentally, the same pricing also applies to the Meralco IPPs.

Thus, we are compelled to ask: What is PSALM's basis for demanding P9 billion from PEMC? The ERC should review PSALM's collection (from PEMC) covering its traded electricity since September 2006. The review should bring out the truth about the electricity pricing at WESM.

—ROLANDO CHIN,

rollychin@gmail.com

The facts and quotes I used in my article were taken from Mayor Totoy Paglas' speech on his town's experiences with Gawad Kalinga.

—MARGAUX ORTIZ,

reporter, Inquirer

PSALM's P9-B demand has no basis

MAY I PLEASE REACT TO THE news item titled, "PSALM demands collection of P9B from buyers" (INQUIRER, 8/17/07)?

As reported, Jose Ibañez, president of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), in a letter to the Philippine Electricity Market Corporation (PEMC), is demanding P9 billion as balance payment for electricity traded during the months of August through September 2006. The demand was made after the Energy Regulatory Commission found PSALM innocent of price manipulation during that period, contrary to the separate findings of PEMC's Market Surveillance Committee.

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Big businessmen want closure in Erap case

From page A1

But according to Trade Secretary Peter Favila, the business community only wants "closure" in Estrada's case, whether it be a conviction or acquittal.

"Business [leaders are] saying that this issue should be closed. That's all they're saying. Whatever the ruling of the Sandiganbayan, everybody should respect it," Favila told reporters in Sydney.

"They probably want to read something else in the papers, like in the INQUIRER," he said.

Miguel Varela, chair emeritus of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), said in a statement that the economy was very well on track despite the political adversities faced by the government in the past.

"Erap's case should not be seen as a stumbling block to continue with the gains the country has achieved over the last five years," Varela said.

He said that in the event Estrada was found guilty of charges, the PCCI would "support legal and constitutional means accorded by the legislative or executive branches of government, such as amnesty or a presidential pardon."

No serious threat

In the same statement, Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines and of the Philippine Exporters Confederation, said he was confident that the verdict, whatever it was, would not pose a serious threat to the local currency and trading markets.

"We have enough fuel to keep our economy running as the currency and stock markets have been stable due to the positive developments in the local economy," he said. "Macroeconomic fundamentals are well in place to minimize the negative effects."

Ortiz-Luis told the INQUIRER

Bishop opposes Erap pardon if he's found guilty

By Beverly T. Natividad

CHURCH LEADERS HAVE weighed in on the prickly issue of the possible verdict on ousted President Joseph Estrada.

In an interview yesterday with Radio Veritas, Puerto Princesa Bishop Pedro Arigo expressed opposition to a presidential pardon should the Sandiganbayan find Estrada guilty of plunder.

Arigo, who chairs the Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, said a pardon for Estrada would be "out of place" because he had not admitted to the charges.

"That's why Estrada is

right," the bishop said in Filipino. "If he is pardoned, he should not accept it because that's tantamount to an admission of guilt."

Arigo also said justice in Christ's teachings was anchored on the truth.

He said that justice should be carried out with the proper mix of truth, compassion, charity and love, and that carrying out justice with only compassion and love was a weakness to which many people often succumbed.

Earlier this week, Jaro Archbishop and CBCP president Angel Lagdameo held off on commenting on the forthcoming verdict.

Asked in a radio interview if

he thought the promulgation would spark violent reactions from Estrada supporters, Lagdameo said in a mix of Filipino and English: "Let's wait for the court's decision. That is the best decision—not to preempt the court. We should not condition the minds of the people [on any verdict]."

Call for calm

Bro. Mike Velarde, leader of the Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai, has asked the public to accept the court's verdict calmly.

"We should treat this case peacefully, whatever is the decision of the Sandiganbayan. It's not really a decision that's based on pressure from any side ... and that should be the

case," Velarde told reporters in a recent caucus between bishops and legislators.

He said he believed in the credibility and impartiality of the antigraft court.

Velarde also called for an end to "speculations" on the verdict. He said these speculations had prompted the government to launch "overkill" preparations, including the deployment of thousands of policemen and soldiers at the Sandiganbayan and Malacañang.

"Why should we expect trouble?" Velarde demanded to know. "We should first wait for the decision of the Sandiganbayan because what has been coming out are mere speculations."

Tanay will still be his prison until his final conviction

SPECIAL PROSECUTOR DENNIS VILLA-IGNACIO, the lead prosecutor of the ousted President, yesterday conceded that a conviction in Estrada's plunder case might not necessarily result in his immediate transfer from his vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal, to the national

penitentiary in Muntinlupa

"If it's an ordinary case, the convict will go directly to prison. But I'm very sure his lawyers will ask the court to allow him to stay in Tanay during his appeal," Villa-Ignacio said.

As for the ex-President's

coaccused son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, Villa-Ignacio said only "a final conviction" by the Supreme Court would strip the lawmaker of his position.

Estrada himself is unfazed.

"I am innocent," he told Reuters on the phone from his

rest house, where he has been detained since 2001.

"I am confident that I will be acquitted if the court would only base its decision on the merits of the case. They have failed to present any strong evidence to support these fabricated charges," he said.

community would also welcome a presidential pardon for Estrada in case of conviction. "The business sector's attitude now is: Don't rock the boat ... If the way out of [a potentially destabilizing situation] is the possibility of an amnesty or pardon, the community will welcome it."

Legal process

In a phone interview, PCCI chair Donald G. Dee said the public should not speculate on the outcome of the case, especially because it was such a divisive issue.

"Whatever the decision, all concerned, especially the executive [branch], should put in mind what is good for the country," Dee said, adding.

"There is the legal process, and we should let it run its course. We will not have a problem as long as due process is followed."

Dee said what was most important was for the government to protect the economic gains so far achieved.

He was referring to the record-high 7.5-percent GDP growth rates posted in the sec-

ond quarter, on which PCCI officials had harped since the start of the year.

In a separate interview, Dee said: "We all have our personal belief [about the case], but this is already for the Sandiganbayan to decide. If we do not accept what the court says, we will veer away [from what's proper]."

"Our main concern is the rule of law," he added.

'Ilibing na'

Favila said local and foreign businessmen he had consulted

had nothing to say on the forthcoming verdict on Estrada's case. "All they want is closure," he said. "For them, this will pass. Ilibing na (It should be buried.)"

He dismissed speculation that a conviction would spur massive demonstrations and political instability, saying: "The business community is confident that the government is in control."

Indeed, Makati Business Club executive director Alberto A. Lim said all that the MBC wanted was for the case to be finally resolved.

Lim said business executives would be satisfied with either conviction or acquittal for Estrada.

"We hope the public accepts whatever the decision would be," he told the INQUIRER.

Political act

Asked about the possibility of an acquittal or presidential pardon, Lim said the latter, "definitely a political" act, would show that other political factors were at play.

"Maybe the business community would be disappointed [with a pardon] because this would mean that the government is not willing to follow through on the prosecution of a big fish," he said.

Lim was reacting to a statement made on Wednesday by Astro del Castillo, a director of the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines, that the business community expected a verdict of conviction and that a subsequent pardon would undermine business confidence.

According to Lim, "the real disappointments are cases like the assassination of former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. and the prosecution of the Marcos."

"At least in Erap's case, the government carried out the prosecution throughout. He went through the legal process," Lim said. With reports from Norman Bordadora and Volt Contreras in Manila; Julian Labog-Javellana in Sydney,

'Salamat sa Desisyong ng Korte Suprema'

"Mas masigasig ang kilos pangkaayusan, pangkabuhayan sa aming barangay"

In the late 80s, it was useless trying to locate criminal elements hiding in the deep, dark maze of shanties built by the community of Smokey Mountain dumpsite scavengers. The same went for trying to stop violence amid endless sessions of drinking in the place that was labeled as world symbol of urban blight.

But all these are in the past now, states Teodoro "Boy" Iradiel, barangay chairman of Barangay 129 of Balut, Tondo, Manila. "Mas organizado na kami ngayon. Ang laking ginhawa at kaayusan na ang naganap sa aming lugar (We are more organized. Our community is so much improved)," he states.

He says their barangay is now able to attend to other pressing needs of residents such as livelihood and medical assistance. Of late, the barangay has been able to give much-needed attention to special children.

Kaya talagang laking pasasalamat namin sa Supreme Court at nabiyan ng tunay na halaga ang Smokey Mountain project. (Thus we are so thankful to the Supreme Court for rendering upon the Smokey Mountain project its real value," Chairman Iradiel states.

Thirteen Supreme Court justices have recently voted to declare the validity of the Smokey Mountain Reclamation and Development Project that provided decent homes for Smokey Mountain dwellers.

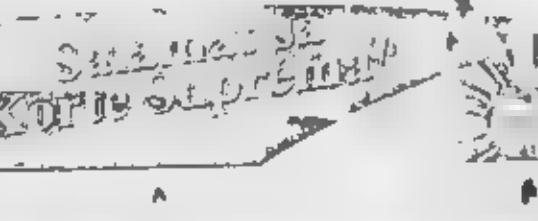


It was in early 1999 when 2,520 families in the area transferred to their permanent homes in 21 medium-rise buildings. "Ngayon, may address na ang mga tao at madaling mahanan kung sino ang mga loko-loko. (It is much easier to locate lawless people now that residents have addresses)," the two-term barangay head declares.

Of the recent projects onstream at Barangay 129, the projects to help special children and the "Aklatang Bayar" are closest to his heart. Children troop to their new two-storey barangay hall to discover the joys of reading with the help of ates and kuyas.

At one end of the hall, Chairman Iradiel points to a young boy, a retardate, with his head stooped. "He can now say 'ma' and 'pa'." Then, he comes near a young

girl with very lean legs and whose mental age is three. With somewhere to go, she is able to leave her house with the help of her mother. "Dito, mayman silang dagdag aruga (Here they get added care)," he says, and with a sigh, adds that the children have given added meaning to their barangay service.



If ZTE deal cancelled, China will not cancel \$400-M loan—Favila

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SYDNEY—CHINA WILL NOT CANCEL the \$400-million loan facility it recently granted the Philippines even if the latter scraps the \$329-million national broadband network deal won by the Chinese firm ZTE Corp., Trade Secretary Peter Favila said here yesterday.

"It's really up to the Philippine government. That's what China is saying. If the Philippine government doesn't want

it, it's no big deal to them," Favila said when interviewed during a break in the meetings of ministers for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit.

Not fly-by-night

Favila said this was what his counterpart, Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai, told him when they met during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Ministers Meeting in Manila two weeks ago.

Bo said that "contrary to what is being said in Manila," ZTE is not a fly-by-night company but is the "largest telecom company in China, which has undertaken much, much bigger projects" than the NBN project in the Philippines, according to the trade secretary.

But Favila said China did not specify what project would be funded by the \$400-million loan.

"I suppose so," he said when asked if the Chinese government would not

withdraw the loan if the ZTE contract were cancelled.

"The assistance of China was channeled to China Eximbank. I suppose whatever project we want (can be funded through this loan)," he said.

Favila said canceling the ZTE deal would not affect RP-China relations.

Expanding trade

"We talked during the Asean... and I told him that what was being said that

there was an anti-China sentiment in the Philippines was not true. I told him that as long as I am the minister, we should not allow anything that will get in the way of furthering our relations," he said.

Asked if honoring the ZTE deal would be one way of preserving the relations, Favila said: "Well, let's not be specific about certain business deals. Let's look at the bigger picture. Our trade with China is expanding."

Apec nations agree climate change of 'vital interest'

SYDNEY—PACIFIC RIM NATIONS AGREED yesterday that climate change was of "vital interest," but squabbled over whether their leaders should set energy efficiency targets at their annual summit.

As officials worked for a third day to craft the wording of a global warming statement that would be acceptable to all 21 leaders at the summit, familiar battle lines were etched over the bigger-picture item of emission reduction targets.

President Hu Jintao reiterated China's position that the United Nations was the best forum to tackle climate change and that rich nations should bear more responsibility than developing countries for reducing global pollution.

China and other developing Asian countries are opposing a US-backed Australian plan for the leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group to include hard targets in their statement, diplomats said.

The specifics of Australia's plan were sketchy, but officials said they involved loosely defined aims to reduce "energy intensity" rather than greenhouse gas emissions.

Australia achieved a step toward its aim of marking Sydney as the global warming Apec, however, when foreign and trade ministers included the issue in their concluding statement from two-days of talks on trade, security and a host of other Apec issues.

"Climate change, energy security and clean development are of vital interest to Apec economies and will be a key theme for Apec leaders," the statement yesterday said.

The ministers said they "welcomed initiatives that encourage individual economies to set goals and formulate action plans for improving energy efficiency."

The final wording of a separate leaders' statement on climate change was being hammered out by other officials, and hard targets were the main sticking point.

Differences on numerical target

Differences of opinion remained on "the need to have a numerical target or not," Indonesian delegate Salman Al-Parisi said.

US and Japanese officials have said one idea floated is a target to cut energy intensity, the amount of energy needed to produce one unit of gross domestic product.

Hu, at a joint news conference with Australian Prime Minister John Howard, said yesterday that any Apec statement on climate change should make clear that UN negotiations "should remain the main channel for the international efforts to tackle climate change."

Highlighting the gulf between the US-backed and developing world positions, Hu said any Apec statement should recognize "common but differentiated responsibilities"—meaning developing nations should not bear the same burden as developed ones in cutting emissions.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said the Australian proposal was not an attempt to "preempt" the UN framework, but an attempt to get more nations to work together to curb global warming.

Common commitment

"We would like the world to move... to a position where all countries make a common commitment to stabilizing and eventually reducing CO₂ emissions," Downer told Australia's Nine Network television yesterday.

The United States and Australia want Apec leaders to embrace a new approach to climate change that would require China—one of the world's biggest polluters—and other developing countries to meet targets on reducing greenhouse gases.

Developing nations maintain that Apec a consensus-based, trade-oriented group, is no place to discuss the details of a new approach to tackling global warming.

Work on successor to Kyoto protocol

Those details, Asian diplomats said should be hammered out within a UN framework. The world body has called a meeting in Indonesia in December to start work on a successor to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which excludes developing nations for emission targets.

The United States and Australia rejected Kyoto, arguing that emission targets that could hurt economic growth should apply to all nations.

In their deliberations, the trade and foreign ministers agreed on a range of other Apec matters, including the promotion of free trade among members, anticorruption and counterterrorism measures and food and product safety measures.

GMA has a lot on her...

From page A1

Philippines and other international issues confronting the two countries and Apec

But Lazaro doubted the arrest of exiled communist leader Jose Ma. Sison in the Netherlands would come up during the Rice-Romulo or Bush-Arroyo meetings.

Lazaro said the issues of terrorism, US military aid and climate change could be taken up during the President's one-on-one meeting with Bush.

She said there would be "very substantive" discussions during the US president's lunch with Ms Arroyo and other Asean leaders.

Asked what role Ms Arroyo would take during the Apec meeting, Lazaro said: "I think she will be sustaining the projection that we are open to all these reforms being discussed—trade facilitation, customs issues."

Not afraid of globalization

In a statement before leaving for Australia, Ms Arroyo said that while the Philippines and other developing countries might not be ready to compete head-to-head with developed nations, "We cannot afford to be afraid of globalization."

"We hope to see greater regional economic integration made possible with all 21 Apec economies agreeing to pursue the path of trade liberalization and a discussion on how Apec can work together to address the global challenges of climate change through a renewed framework for cooperation as a follow-up to the Kyoto Protocol," she said.

It was not clear if her call for a "renewed cooperation framework" on climate change backed the proposal of Bush and Australian Prime Minister John Howard for Apec to endorse a new approach to the divisive issue—one that unlike the current Kyoto Protocol would require firmer action by China and other developing countries.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ms Arroyo welcomed discussions on climate change at Apec but binding action would have to be taken within the framework of the United Nations.

"We will be active in the discussions, we will echo not only our views but also the views of the NGOs... whom we are working with," Bunye said, referring to environmental groups calling for more drastic emission cuts.

Way ahead on climate change

Speaking after the Apec breakfast meeting of foreign ministers in Sydney, Romulo said the Philippines fully agreed that the way ahead for the climate change agenda called for flexibility, recognition of national circumstances, and fair burden sharing.

"With its sweeping implications on global sustainable development, stability and security, climate change is a major issue that Apec cannot ignore," Romulo said.

"We support international climate change cooperation based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities."

Romulo said that as nations proceeded to strengthen their climate change programs, sharing of information and experiences with regional and international partners, particularly on new technologies and better policies to strengthen not just mitigation but also adaptation, had to be undertaken.

He stressed that under the UN Framework for Climate Change Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, the Philippines had already implemented and sustained key programs such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

28 RP projects

The Kyoto Protocol's CDM allows developing economies like the Philippines to voluntarily reduce greenhouse gas emissions through private sector initiatives.

To date, the market-based mechanism has generated 28 projects in the Philippines, accounting for more than 1.5 million tons per year of emission reduction credits registered in the country.

Romulo, however, said that national programs had to be pursued alongside intensified regional and international efforts to address climate change. With a report from Cynthia D. Balana, AP

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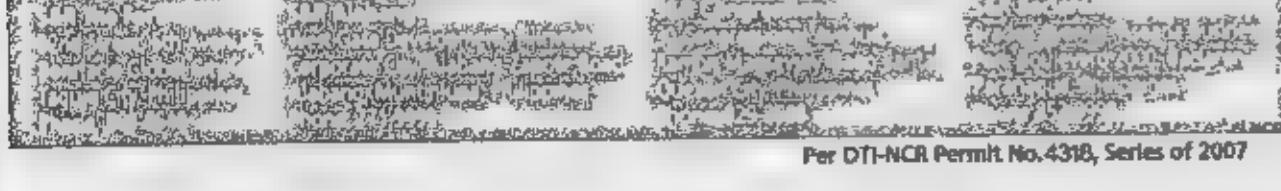
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Red tide worsens Sorsogon poverty

SORSOGON CITY—THE LOSS OF income by families as a result of a ban on gathering shellfish because of red tide is driving housewives and children out in search of menial jobs elsewhere.

Telesforo Mendoza, chief of the fishing village of Barangay Cambulaga, said his constituents were struggling to cope with the economic impact of the ban.

"At least 80 percent of my constituency depend on the shellfish industry," he said.

The village, where the first red tide poisoning occurred last year, has more than 3,000 residents.

Wilfredo Pura, 46, was forced to allow his wife, Olivia, to work as a house help in Metro Manila since May due to lack of income to support his family.

Two of his children were also compelled to work in a hardware to help the family while the other two of his six children failed to enroll last June due to financial difficulties.

Pura, who was fixing a fish net when INQUIRER talked to him, said even shifting to another form of livelihood, like fishing, did not guarantee income due to dwindling catch.

"With shellfish, you are assured of a minimum of P200 daily, which was enough for our daily needs, but now it is gone," he said.

Pura appealed to the government for help.

His wife earns P3,000 monthly as house help and sends P1,500 home.

Catherine Sesbreno, 15, was tending her four younger siblings in their house when INQUIRER visited, accompanied by the village chief.

She said her mother was also working in Manila while her father went to another village in the city to look for food.

She, too, has stopped schooling for lack of money to support her studies.

The following day, when INQUIRER visited

again the Sesbreno family, Catherine's father Arturo appealed for immediate help.

He said his family was able to survive on credit from a nearby retail store.

"What if they stopped giving us cred-

it," he said.

The sheer poverty forced families to eat green mussels even if they knew it could mean death, he said. **Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon**



THE ERUPTION of Mt. Bulusan in Sorsogon City provided temporary respite from worries over a ban on shellfish gathering as a result of red tide in the area. The ban has sent hundreds of shell gatherers jobless.

HARDELA CRUZ/CONTRIBUTOR

ROUNDUP

3 die in accidents

LUCENA CITY—At least three motorcycle riders died and seven tricycle passengers were injured in three separate accidents in Quezon province over the weekend, police said Tuesday.

On Monday in Plaridel town, motorcycle riders Orlando Silao and Jinjie Ledda, died when they rammed into an electric post.

Before midnight on Sunday in Gumarca town, another motorcycle rider, Jeanette Nacionales de la Perla, was also killed after she was hit by a bus.

On Monday in Calauag town, an Asian utility vehicle (DVF-71B) being driven by one Jesus Muse slammed into a tricycle full of passengers in the village of Blintas along the Maharlika Highway.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

World War II bombs found

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Eight bombs, believed to be of World War II vintage, were found on Tuesday near a school in Sta. Cruz, Laguna where a new building was being constructed, police said.

Sta. Cruz police chief Joriz Almoduel Cantoria said the bombs were dug up by construction workers while doing the foundation of a new school building of the Pedro Guevara High School.

Some bombs were placed in the municipal police station while others were not yet removed from the construction site.

Nina Catherine Calleja, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Cavite school enters 4th year

THE CAVITE State University (CvSU) Center for Business and Entrepreneurship in Imus, Cavite celebrated its fourth foundation with the theme "Academe and Industry—Strengthening and Partnership, Expanding Boundaries" last Aug. 30-31.

Gov. Ireneao "Ayong" Malaki, who was guest of the school, expressed his continued support for the school's commitment to be the center for producing competitive entrepreneurs and businessmen, not only in the province but also worldwide.

A statement from CvSU said CBE faculty members and students, with new dean Gilchor R. Cubilo, welcomed another year of expansion in the pursuit of long-term development plans.

SSS exec shot dead

COTABATO CITY—Unidentified motorcycle-riding men shot dead Wednesday the officer in charge of the Social Security System office here, police said.

Supt. Panlares Adap, city police director, said Macario Calunsag of Barangay Kimagango, Midsayap, North Cotabato, was on his way to the SSS-Cotabato branch in a tricycle when one of the suspects shot him.

Bystanders rushed the 48-year-old Calunsag to the Cotabato Medical Specialist Hospital, but he died while being operated on.

Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

New OMA head named

COTABATO CITY—Malajafang has named a banker from Maguindanao as head of the Office of Muslim Affairs (OMA).

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER on Tuesday, the OMA said President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed Datu Ali B. Sangki as OMA executive director on Aug. 13 but he assumed office only on Monday.

The Manchester-educated Sangki assumed the post, which has a rank of undersecretary, from Lanao del Sur businessman Sultan Yahya Tomawis.

Inquirer Mindanao

Militiamen get pay hike

CAMP SIONGO, SHARIFF KABJNSUAN—Starting this month, the monthly subsistence allowance of militiamen in Central Mindanao will be raised from P1,800 to P2,700, a ranking military officer of the Army's 6th Infantry Division announced Wednesday.

The increase, according to Lt. Col. Paul Atal, commander of the 38th Infantry Battalion, will benefit some 6,000 members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) assigned with the 6th ID.

Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao

Police arrest, dismantle armed group in Cavite

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Seven suspected members of a private armed group victimizing landowners were arrested in a raid by the Regional Special Operations Group (RSOG) of the Calabarzon police in General Trias, Cavite Thursday.

Chief Insp. Jesus Kabigting, RSOG operations chief, said several firearms, including a .45-cal. pistol and a 9mm handgun, were recovered from the arrested men.

Organized

He said the suspects belonged to a "highly organized crime group" known to occupy vacant lots in Cavite.

The group would later threaten the lot owners to give up the rights for the ownership of the pieces of property.

"Members of this group are armed that's why they're able to intimidate their victims. They work like private armies," Kabigting told the INQUIRER.

He said they were still checking if the group had also worked for any local politician in Cavite in the past.

He said members of RSOG swooped down on the lair of the suspects in Sitio de Fuego in Baranay San Francisco at around 10:25 a.m.

As of this posting, policemen were still conducting an inventory of the confiscated firearms from the suspects. Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

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SIEMENS

Mayors back call for SK abolition

BINALONAN, PANGASINAN—MOST MAYORS have agreed the Sangguniang Kabataan should be abolished, saying SK officials could not divide their time between schoolwork and responsibilities in the SK, according to a top official of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines.

"The mayors do not openly speak [about the issue] because of political reasons, but they are for the abolition of the SK," Mayor Ramon Guico, LMP president, said.

He said many SK presidents fail to attend the municipal, city and provincial council sessions held during school days because they needed to go to their classes.

"So they are not really able to represent the youth during the sessions but local governments are spending for their salaries and other expenses," he said.

As for SK projects in the villages, SK lead-

ers usually consult barangay chairs who make the decisions on where the budget should be spent, he added.

Guico said whenever SK leaders ask local officials for projects they are usually accompanied by their parents "who dictate on their children what to do."

"They can not really decide on their own yet, thus they can not effectively represent the youth sector," he said.

Guico also said LMP members are divided between the plan to postpone the barangay and SK elections.

He said newly elected mayors wanted the elections to push through because most of the incumbent barangay officials are not their political allies, while reelected mayors wanted the elections postponed because incumbent officials are their allies. *Makaranda Fuertes, Inquirer N. Luzon*



FARMERS use native bags symbolic of treachery during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines during World War II at a protest rally against the Jepa treaty with Japan.

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Group says new fertilizer aid tied to Jepa

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE NATIONAL Fishermen's alliance Pamalakaya Lakas ng Kilusang Mamatakaya ng Pilipinas has voiced our suspicions that the timing of the release of a P125-million fertilizer grant from the Japanese government was "closely linked" to the approval of the controversial Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jepa).

In a statement, Pamalakaya Chair Fernando Hicap said the Japanese government was using the fertilizer project as "propaganda to convince the Senate to ratify the Jepa."

One-sided

Hicap called the Jepa a "one-sided economic treaty," describing it also as a tool for Japan's second invasion of the Philippines.

"[The fertilizer grant] is part of the promotional blitz for Jepa. The Manila government is making a big issue out of this strings-attached deal to please the Senate as a ratifying body that the local economy will gain much from Jepa and that Japan will flood the country with more economic aid once the controversial economic pact is ratified," he said.

The Japanese Embassy in Manila announced on Monday that it had shipped 15,607 metric tons of fertilizer worth 300 million yen or about P125 million under its 30-year grant assistance program for poor Filipino farmers.

The final shipment, 5,000 metric tons in all, arrived via the Port of Iloilo on Aug. 28.

Japanese vessels

The embassy had said the shipment was intended for farmers tilling two hectares or less in Nueva Ecija, Isabela, Cagayan, Mindoro Occidental and Oriental, Camarines Sur, Albay, Negros Occidental and Iloilo.

Pamalakaya's opposition to the Jepa concerned its Section 3's Articles 28 and 29 which state that the government would allow Japanese vessels in marine bodies exclusively reserved for Filipino fishermen.

Hicap said these "grossly violate the country's national sovereignty and patriarchy to the highest order."

Tonette Orejas, *Inquirer Central Luzon*

Ex-security chief of farmers slain

DIGOS CITY—THE FORMER CHIEF SECURITY officer of the Davao del Sur Farmers' Association (Dasurfa) in Matalag, Davao del Sur was shot dead yesterday.

Dasurfa is a group of farmers contesting ownership of a portion of the Hughes Estate in Malasag.

Chief Insp. Cesar Cabuhat, city police chief, said Lorencio Fernandez, 43, a resident of Sulop, Davao del Sur had just alighted from a tricycle near the public market around 10:30 a.m. when fired upon by three motorcycle-riding men.

He said the suspects continued to fire at Fernandez even when he was already slumped on the ground.

They fled after the shooting, he said.

Cabuhat said by-standers rushed the victim to the provincial hospital but he died while being treated.

Police investigators said they are looking at several angles including Fernandez's work with Dasurfa.

Dasurfa had been engaged in violent confrontations against a group of another claimant in the area.

Jay-R Fernandez, the victim's son, said his father had ceased working for the farmers' group in April.

He said he did not know if his father had received threats prior to his killing. *Eddie Aguirre with reports from Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao*

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MMDA's 'Gwapotel' big hit at P20 a night, P5 a bath, with transients

From page A1

three to four feet away from one another. Guests probably get to understand why the rates are that incredibly low the moment they see this spartan arrangement.

Also, a transient, who normally is allowed to check in at 2 p.m., will have to pack up by 9 a.m. the following day as housekeeping needs to "hose down" the quarters for the next batch of bedspacers.

Nevertheless, Fernando said he expected the figure to grow as more workers discover Gwapotel ("gwapo" is Filipino for handsome or sleek, and a recurring buzz-word in BF's various beautification projects in the metropolis).

He said he expected the occupancy rate to reach 90 percent this month on word of mouth alone.

Profile of guests

Based on a guest list kept by the MMDA, most of the clients have been domestic travellers waiting for their ships bound for the Visayas or Mindanao, taxi drivers, call center agents, applicants for overseas jobs, port workers and government employees.

Many of the workers staying at the inn come from the Southern Tagalog.

Occasionally, guests appearing to be businessmen and white-collar personnel would show up at the inn, having run out of other lodging options in the city, Fernando said.

Each floor has a TV set, electric fans for ventilation, security cameras, and beds for up to 200 guests. As many as six guards are on duty at any given time.

Women are sheltered separately on the second floor.

Showers

Each bunk bed comes with a pillow and leatherette matting, but an extra mattress can be had for P25. It is not uncommon for guests to bring their own blankets and sleeping bags.



THE FAÇADE of the Gwapotel Inn on Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, reflects its no-frills but secure and decent interior. It has serviced more than 40,000 out-of-towners since its opening four months ago. A 710-bed inn, it has an average occupancy of 73% daily. INQUIRER PHOTO



BED AND BATH of choice for transients is the MMDA's innovative Gwapotel Inn. A prospective bedspacer checks out the amenities. INQUIRER PHOTO

quent use of insecticides.

Fights would sometimes erupt among strangers made to sleep close to one another, which Saliva said is "just natural in a room full of people. We just ask them to leave and settle it elsewhere."

And what usually triggers the fights? Snoring.

Still, Fernando said, owing to the initial success of Gwapotel, MMDA will soon be opening similar facilities in three more cities in Metro Manila.

To take a bath, guests use coin-operated showers, where they deposit P5 for approximately eight minutes of water flow. After eight minutes, the shower automatically stops.

Washing laundry is not allowed and eating is banned in the sleeping quarters.

There is a major policy at Gwapotel that one will not find in other hotels: "No reservations."

Josefina Saliva, who heads an MMDA committee managing the inn, said guests who intend to stay another night have to check in again the next day.

"The floor has to be empty between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. That's cleanup time," she said in an interview.

Of course, there have been some complaints.

Complaints

Mosquitoes used to be a problem, Saliva admitted, but this was alleviated with the installation of "air curtains" and more fre-

Palace forms new media office to polish RP image

From page A1

tives to project government messages in international media in support of national interests and governance thrusts in security, law and order, economic, diplomatic, political, social and other areas."

The President, who left for Sydney yesterday to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit, signed on Aug. 24 Executive Order No. 656 creating the International Media Office (IMO).

She allotted an initial fund of P30 million for the "communication campaign." The fund will be charged to the Office of the Press Secretary (OPS) headed by Ignacio Bunye "and other sources as may be identified by the Department of Budget and Management."

The OPS will take charge of setting up a separate office to house the IMO staff, and logistical and personnel requirements will be met by the Departments of Foreign Affairs, Tourism, Trade and Industry, and Labor and Employment, the National Security Council, and the Philippine Information Agency.

The Investor Relations Office will support the IMO, which is to "coordinate closely with Philippine embassies and consulates abroad."

Global offensive

A Malacañang official, who asked not to be named for lack of authority to speak on the record, said EO 656 could lead to the fielding of information attachés "as part of a global diplomatic offensive."

During the Marcos regime, media attachés were appointed by the President to embassies all over the world as part of the dictatorship's global media machinery.

The administration of President Corazon Aquino did away with all information attachés.

As a consequence, every time a Philippine president went on a foreign trip, the OPS' foreign visit secretariat had to go through a circuitous process of requesting, through the ambassador concerned, an embassy staff member to serve as media coordinator.

"EO 656 will increase coordination and lead to an integrated communication plan," the official said.

The way it is

At present, all media coverage of Ms Arroyo's foreign visits is handled by the OPS' Presidential News Desk (PND), the same unit that handles local media events involving her.

The PND broadcast arm is Radio-Television Malacañang (RTVM), which is technically under the OPS and is the workhorse of the government's media machinery. It is headed by Milton Alingod, a former press secretary who holds the same rank as Bunye.

RTVM's output is fed daily to government TV channels 4, 9 and 13.

Overall coordination for the President's provincial and local engagements is solely the task of the Presidential Management Staff headed by Secretary Cerge Remonde.

Foreign visits are handled by the Office of Presidential Protocol, currently headed by

Ambassador Mariano Paynor.

The protocol office, with the help of the foreign visit secretariat, oversees and coordinates preparations for official, working and state visits, and even social visits of the President.

Best man for the job

The Arroyo administration has been the subject of international criticism stemming from the unresolved extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances.

It is also being rocked by such nagging issues as the controversial National Broadband Network deal with China's ZTE Corp and the "Hello Garcí" wiretapping scandal of 2005, which the Senate is reinvestigating starting today.

The bulk of the problem may be blamed on "the poor way the President's executives are explaining the issues," according to Sorsogon Rep. Salvador Escudero III.

Yesterday, Escudero found in Health Secretary Francisco Duque the best person to do the talking for the President.

Duque had come to the deliberations of the House committee on appropriations to justify the P16.2-billion budget that the Department of Health was seeking for 2008.

In response, Escudero said the health secretary would make a better mouthpiece for Ms Arroyo than Bunye or Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

"You are a good communicator," Escudero told the surprised Duque. "Actually, the President should consider bringing you to Malacañang to do the explaining [for her] rather than [leaving the job to] Secretaries Bunye and Ermita."

Getting worse

Escudero said "the situation" was "not really that bad."

"But it is becoming worse because of the very, very poor explanation of the executives in the Palace," he told Duque, adding:

"Again, consider going [to Malacañang] to help because she's in big, big trouble. There are so many personalities who can inform the President about it. The majority of the congressmen here [also] have direct links with the President."

"I mean it very sincerely."

Duque later told the INQUIRER that he was "elated" by Escudero's praise.

"But there are still many things to do at the DOH. Besides, I may be a good spokesperson for a day and not be as effective for a year because it's not my competency," he said.

DOH plans for next year hinge on a P16.2-billion budget, which comprises only 1.3 percent of the proposed P1.2-trillion national expenditure program for 2008.

Duque said half of the total amount would be devoted to the improvement of medical facilities under the care of the DOH.

Actually, the entire DOH budget falls short of the World Health Organization standard on the amount governments are supposed to spend annually on health care.

The benchmark is 5 percent of the gross domestic product, but the Philippine health budget represents only 3.2 percent of the GDP, Duque said.

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GMA would let peso rise, issues order to help exporters

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO has refused to intervene to arrest the sharp rise of the peso against the US dollar.

Instead, the President issued Administration Order No. 194 "instituting a strategy to upgrade exports in the face of a strong peso."

AO 194 was signed on Tuesday but was made public on Wednesday by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita before the President left Thursday to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit in Sydney.

The peso's continuing rise against the dollar has led to calls from the export sector for the government to slow down the currency's appreciation, claiming it has led to the shutdown of 75 mostly small- and medium-scale export enterprises and resulted in P1.5 billion in foreign exchange losses in the first half of the year.

Reconsider policy

On Wednesday, Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Philippine Exporters Confederation, appealed to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to reconsider its foreign exchange policy to prevent the export sector from losing its global competitiveness.

Although Ortiz-Luis is close to her, the President is standing pat on her "policy of nonintervention." She has said time and again that market forces, not politics, should dictate the peso-dollar exchange rate.

Malacañang has also said that a stronger peso means lower interest payments on the country's foreign debt, which stood at P3.7 trillion in June.

In the AO, Ms Arroyo said she recognized that exports needed to be pushed to move into "higher value lines and processes and technical and credit support must be provided for those willing to be upgraded."

Instead of the central bank intervening,

however, she said contributions from government-owned and -controlled corporations that are benefiting from the strong peso, like National Power Corp. and Transmision Corp. (Transco), could be used to help exporters.

Upgrade exports

She said NPC and Transco should help ensure that the businesses of electricity consumers like exporters "continue to be viable."

The President ordered the Department of Trade and Industry to work with the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center, government financial institutions and business to "draw up and implement a program with development loans to upgrade the quality, design and packaging of Philippine exports, especially those being priced out of the market due to the exchange rate."

She ordered GOCCs like NPC and Transco to fund the technical support for the export upgrading program which, she said, would assist sectors losing out in the exchange rate and help ensure that export businesses remained viable.

Strong economy

In an ambush interview yesterday, Ermita said the Department of Finance and National Economic and Development Authority had "made certain announcements about the mitigation of the ill effects on exporters" of the strong peso.

Ermita disagreed with businessmen who said that a strong peso did not mean a strong economy.

"That's their own opinion. Can you imagine the money we save and instead use this for some of our social and infrastructure projects because of the strong peso? We have more savings, we are able to address our deficit, among other things," he said.

He noted that economic managers and financial analysts had said that the government could balance the budget by 2008, even if the target for a balanced budget is 2010.

"All these things are contributory to the improved economy," said Ermita.

GMA acts on rice prices in metro

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TO KEEP THE price of rice from rising further in Metro Manila, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered government officials to make sure there was an adequate supply of the staple.

Before leaving for Australia yesterday, the President assured the public the government was doing something to stop the price of rice from increasing and was addressing the inadequate supply of National Food Authority rice being sold at P18 per kilo in the markets.

Ms Arroyo said the government was undertaking the measures in view of the delay in the rice harvest following the dry spell experienced in some Luzon provinces.

"In our Cabinet meeting last Tuesday, I directed the Department of Agriculture and the NFA to step up the delivery of rice to public markets where the price of rice had increased and where there was no NFA rice," the President said in her departure speech. Christine O. Avendaño

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Frat dares UP over studies' suspension NCPAG dean says it's a moral issue

By Jeannette I. Andrade, Kristine L. Alave and Tina G. Santos

THE SIGMA RHO FRATERNITY IS THREATENING to sue the University of the Philippines if the preventive suspension of four of its officers is not lifted.

The four were suspended for the duration of the investigation of the death of senior public administration student Cris Anthony Mendez.

The threat was contained in the fraternity's response to the order issued by Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Elizabeth Enriquez suspending officers of the Sigma Rho at the Colleges of Engineering, Law, and Social Sciences, and the National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG) starting Aug. 31.

In the letter, lawyers of the fraternity asked the UP administration to lift the suspension order or they would sue the university, citing provisions of the university rules on due process for students facing charges.

'Too much'

NCPAG dean Alex Brillantes Jr. said that while the fraternity members had the right to due process, threatening the university with a law suit was really too much.

"This investigation into Mendez's death is more than a legal question. This is a moral question now. They have to look at the moral perspective to all this," Brillantes said.

Meanwhile, the UP Diliman Executive Committee condemned the "senseless and deplorable death of Mendez in what has been reported to be a fraternity hazing incident." The committee is composed of deans and directors of the colleges and schools and is chaired by the chancellor.

"The university assures the public and the bereaved family that it will exert all efforts and spare no one to bring the truth to light," the statement read.

Change

"The Executive Committee calls in particular upon those who were directly or indirectly involved to find the moral courage to step forward and take responsibility for their actions," the statement added. "UP Diliman is firmly resolved to intensify all efforts to change the culture of violence which, from time to time, rears its ugly head in the course of initiation rites and inter-fraternity conflicts."

Brillantes said yesterday he supported proposals that would provide universities and colleges stronger control over fraternities to prevent hazing.

The NCPAG dean said Sigma Rho, the fraternity Mendez was allegedly trying to join, denied allegations they were involved in the incident. Students allegedly

FRAT/A24



ALL CLEAR

A plane approaches the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City, now cleared of billboards that were deemed hazardous to incoming or departing aircraft. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority has stepped up its drive to remove giant advertising billboards in Metro Manila.

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For other equipment such as earth moving machines and generating sets, ORIX METRO could finance up to 60% of the selling price or appraisal value. This financial assistance has become fundamental in the fast delivery of goods and services within the Philippine islands, which, in turn, has helped boost the local economy. At present, ORIX METRO is accredited with more than 40 major dealers in Metro Manila and nearby provinces. With its fast approval process and professional service, ORIX METRO is considered one of the foremost truck financing providers in the industry.

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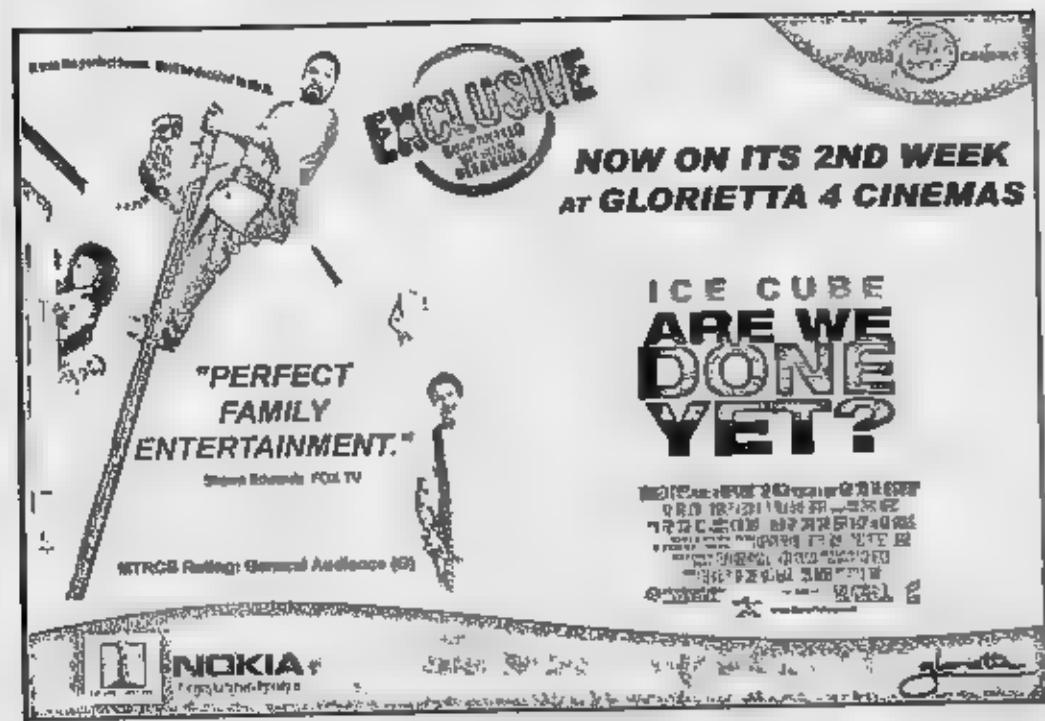
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2 more suspects in rape-slay taken into custody



By Alison Lopez and Tina Santos

THE MANILA POLICE TOOK INTO custody two more suspects in the rape-slay of 7-year-old Geraldine Palma.

One of the suspects surrendered to the military while the other was caught in Bulacan yesterday.

Suspect Renato "Rick-Rick" Bohol, 41, of Isla Puting Bato in Tondo, went to the Civil Military Operations Battalion (CMOB) also in Tondo reportedly because he feared what the police would do to him. The Leyte native said he wanted to clear his name but admitted he knew the other suspects, who were his neighbors.

Another suspect, Joey Igos, was arrested by the Manila Police District (MPD) homicide division in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

Igos, also of Isla Puting Bato, was arrested only hours after Bohol surrendered to the military.

Three other suspects are already in police custody: Rosdam Mesias, Domingo Agnate and Ramil Dionico.

Manila homicide police alleged Bohol had strangled Palma and stuffed her inside a bag. The suitcase was found floating near the breakwater of North Harbor on Aug. 16.

Armed Forces NCR chief Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolofino and acting Manila Mayor Isko Moreno handed Bohol to the Manila police yesterday.

Maj. Nelson de la Cruz, CMOB company commander, said Bohol's father Serafin and barangay official



RENATO "Rick Rick" Bohol, faces the media at the Manila City Hall, shortly after he surrendered to the Philippine Army Civil Military Operations Battalion in Tondo.

and housemaid Marites Ontog remained at large.

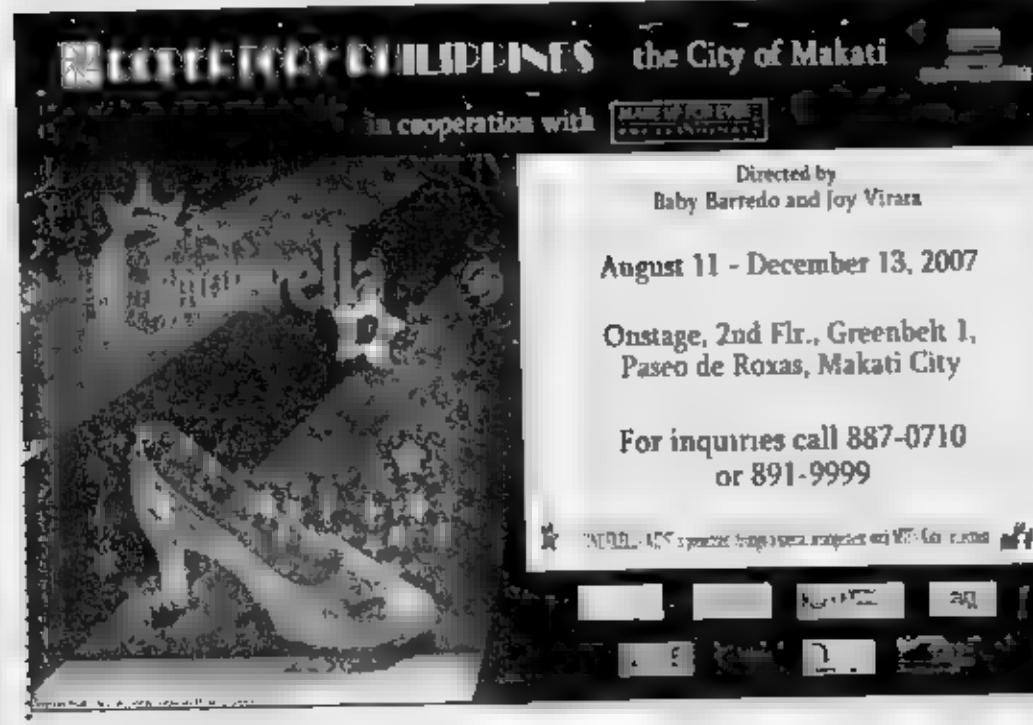
Moreno offered P50,000 from his own pocket for any information on Ontog's whereabouts.

Residents in Barangay Minuwang, San Jose del Monte provided information to the authorities that lead to Bohol's capture. They saw Bohol's picture on television, police said.

The police said a witness said Igos raped the victim inside a shanty in Tondo.

Meanwhile, operatives of the Criminal Investigation and Detective Group went to Floridablanca, Pangasinan over the weekend following information that Tesado was seen there.

Authorities believe Tesado was the mastermind in the rape-slay. Ontog, on the other hand, was the last person seen with Palma.



QUEZON City policemen caught up with four suspected car thieves riding on board this car. The chase ended in a shootout at Batasan Hills. JOAN BONDOC



4 suspected car thieves killed

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

FOUR SUSPECTED CAR THIEVES died in a gun battle yesterday morning with agents of the Traffic Management Group and Anti-Car-jacking units of the Quezon City Police District on IBP Road, Batasan Hills in Quezon City.

Two of the still unidentified suspects died on the spot inside a black Toyota Altis with plate number XEJ-943. The other two were brought to the Malvar General

Hospital. The suspects, who sustained wounds from M-16 and caliber .45 guns in different parts of the bodies, were pronounced dead on arrival.

A police operative, SPO4 Leonardo Tecson, was hit on the right arm by a bullet from a caliber .45 gun. An onlooker was also injured and rushed to the nearest hospital.

An initial report by Supt. Constante Agpaoa showed the incident happened at around 8:30 a.m. The

suspects were driving was reported missing earlier.

Authorities tried to get the suspects to stop but, instead of slowing down, they stepped on the gas.

Authorities gave chase. When the thieves noticed they were being followed, they fired at the lawmen, prompting the police to return fire.

Two cal. .45 guns used by the suspects were recovered. The police said the car's plate number XEJ-943 was also assigned to a Toyota Revo

EDSA Shrine off limits to Erap supporters

By Kristine L. Alave

Avenue in Mandaluyong City as it is a place of worship.

No rally zone

Despite the no-rally ban, the police still expect protesters to show up on the day Estrada's sentence is handed down by the Sandiganbayan.

Estrada, who has been under house arrest in Tanay, Rizal province, was on trial for plunder after he was deposed in 2001.

"EDSA Shrine is a no-rally zone as it is intended for religious activities only. That is also the desire and policy of parish authorities there. Nonetheless, we are prepared for any eventuality," the police general said.

Asked how many policemen they would deploy, Ticman declined to give figures, saying that it would be enough to maintain peace and order in the avenue.

Judge prevents Manila officials from taking over Vitas slaughterhouse

By Allison W. Lopez

THE CITY OF MANILA WAS PREVENTED from taking over a slaughterhouse in Tondo with the issuance yesterday of a 20-day temporary restraining order by a Manila Regional Trial Court.

Judge Silvino Pampilo Jr. of Manila RTC Branch 26 issued the TRO when the parties failed to draw up a compromise agreement.

Dealco Farms Inc., which manages the Vitas slaughterhouse, filed a complaint against Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim; Col. Levi Viesca, chair of the Veterinary Inspection Board; Ricardo de Guzman, chief of staff of the mayor, and Rodolfo Mariano.

Dealco sued when some 50 Manila policemen arrived on Aug. 14 to

undertake the handover of the slaughterhouse, reputed to be the largest in the city, to the City of Manila despite the existence of a 25-year lease signed in 1999.

Tension rose when Viesca and Mariano, according to the complainant, arrived later with a document from De Guzman demanding the "physical turnover of the possession and operation" of the slaughterhouse.

Pampilo gave both sides five days to come up with a compromise agreement. After they failed to settle the dispute, the judge gave them seven more days, but still with no success.

After careful consideration of the evidence presented by both parties in relation to the application for

the issuance of TRO, it appears that herein plaintiff has proven the necessity and extreme urgency for the issuance thereof," the judge said in his two-page order.

DID YOU KNOW?

THE LATE National Artist for Literature Francisco Arca Iana was born on Sept. 6, 1916 in Sta. Cruz, Manila. The fictionist, poet, editor and literary critic was the founding chair of the Creative Writing Center of the University of the Philippines. He died of multiple organ failure in August 2002. Cyril L. Bonabante, *Inquirer Research*

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE AFP BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (PROCUREMENT OF MILITARY COMPASS WI ILS PACKAGE)

1. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), through the Special Allotment Release Order No. D-07-00818, intends to apply the sum of THREE MILLION NINE HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 3,960,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the corresponding contract for the Supply and Delivery of Military Compass w/ ILS Package. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

2. The Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the GHQ BAC1, now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the said item.

Qty	Description / Activity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Price of Bid Documents	Delivery Schedule
650 units	GHQ BAC1-MOO-PRF-20-02 Military Compass w/ ILS package	PHP 3,960,000.00	PHP 3,000.00	To be delivered within 45 calendar days upon receipt of INTT or Letter of Credit, whichever comes first.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (RA. 9184), also known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietors, corporation with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or corporations of a country the laws and regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (RA. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). The process for the eligibility, technical and financial checking are described in Sections II of the Bidding Documents. ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who would be determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from AFP BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday excluding holidays.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee. The method of payment will be in the form of cash only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. The AFP will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Interested parties on 9:00 a.m. September 14, 2007 (Friday) at the 5th Floor Padayon Bldg, G/F Buhrangg Bldg, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 9:00 a.m. September 26, 2007 (Wednesday). All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form and corresponding amount allowed under RA 9184 and its IRR-A. Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. Bid opening shall be on 8:00 a.m. September 26, 2007 (Wednesday) at the 5th Floor Padayon Bldg, G/F Buhrangg Bldg, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

9. Only offers or bids from suppliers, dealers and distributors or their duly-authorized representatives shall be entertained. The equipment/GOODS should be used by the armed forces of the country of origin or by the armed forces of at least two countries in accordance with R.A. 7838. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking similar projects within the last five (5) years with at least twenty five (25) percent (for Single project) and fifty (50) percent (for accumulated projects) of the proposed project for bidding.

10. To facilitate bidding, suppliers, dealers, distribution and/or prospective bidders who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the GHQ BAC1 Secretariat as early as possible but not later than three (3) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids.

11. The AFP reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract without incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) 8GEN JERRY V. JALANDONI AFP
Chairman, GHQ BAC1

Office of the AFP Bids and Awards Committee
G/F Buhrangg Syquo
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Contact Person: Ms. Edna B. Mariano
Tel. No. 911-6001 Loc. 6485 / 6487
Fax No. 911-6001 Loc. 6485
Email add: marianoed@yahoo.com.ph
(PD - September 7, 2007)

A2

METRO

Green warriors launch zero waste drive in QC school

By TJ Burgo

NOTHING LIKE STARTING them young.

A green group yesterday launched a guide on zero waste for schools, and tapped high school students to become green warriors in the fight against global warming.

The EcoWaste Coalition launched the "Guide to Zero Waste Schools" at the Ramon Magsaysay High School in Cubao in Quezon City.

The group, aided by Ms Earth beauties, turned over the guide to school administrators. It lists down ways to manage school

waste beyond the usual 3Rs—reuse, repair and recycle.

"The idea is waste prevention, even before we go into recycling," EcoWaste Coalition secretary Manly Calonzo said in an interview after the launch. For starters, the school's more than 6,000 students could avoid using plastic straws when buying soda, or reject plastic bags when making purchases at the school canteen, he said.

"If they have that consciousness, it will be easy to achieve those goals," Calonzo said. "And we're hoping that their consciousness within the school would be expanded to their

households and neighborhoods."

By reducing waste to zero in school, the students and the administrators would be addressing the perennial problem of cities in disposing volumes of garbage, one source of global warming, the group said.

The guide proposes that administrators and students promote ecological awareness, push for programs that reduce the generation of wastes and toxic materials, implement best practices in solid waste management, and support sustainable livelihood opportunities for recycling projects.



STUDENTS, teachers, environmentalists and beauty queens team up at the Ramon Magsaysay High school in Cubao, Quezon City, to launch guide to zero waste schools as a concrete contribution to ongoing efforts to stop environmental degradation and climate change.

JOAN BONDOC

HONORING PLARIDEL

The 157th birth anniversary of Filipino patriot Marcelo H. del Pilar (aka Plaridel) was commemorated on Aug. 30 with a wreathlaying ceremony at the Plaridel monument in Malate, Manila, with Mayor Alfredo Lim (sixth from left) and Samahang Plaridel officers leading the simple rites. Inset shows Mayor Lim distributing books on Plaridel to pupils of Plaridel Elementary School.



Lucky SPD cops to undergo training in intel work in US

By Julie M. Aurelio

POLICEMEN ASSIGNED TO CITIES IN SOUTHERN Metro Manila may soon get a chance to train in law enforcement, California-style.

Southern Police District director Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales recently announced that he is talking with police officials in Butte County, California on joint training opportunities for SPD cops.

Only policemen without administrative or criminal records will be considered for the training program.

If talks push through, around 30 select policemen from the SPD will fly to the United States and train for three to four weeks on investigation and intelligence-gathering.

"I had initial talks with concerned officials and we will soon be drafting the terms of agreement," Rosales said in an interview.

The district director met with Butte

County officials when he went on a trip to the United States two months ago.

The SPD covers the cities of Makati, Pasay, Taguig, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, and Parañaque, as well as the lone municipality of Pateros.

Rosales said the potential trainees will be screened and evaluated to see if they are qualified for the US-based training.

"Those who have figured in a number of cases, especially major ones, will not be considered except for those who only acted in self-defense," he added.

Apart from polishing their skills in intelligence-gathering and investigation, the chosen ones will also be briefed on the proper management of their resources.

Rosales added that the policemen will only have to pay for their airfare. The rest of the expenses would be shouldered by the SPD. They will also receive an allowance for the duration of their stay in the US.

Girl undergoing chemo needs help

CHARINA LLERA'S LEFT EYE was removed due to a malignant tumor outgrowth that developed when she was 2 years old.

After losing one eye for almost two years now, the 4-year-old fisherman's daughter from Barangay Osmeña, Cleveria, Masbate, is now undergoing a series of treatments to help alleviate the pain.

Charina is undergoing an 18-cycle of chemotherapy and radiotherapy sessions at the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City.

The total cost per cycle is P6,400.

"Iko-cobalt na rin po siya sa loob ng 25



raw mula Sept. 11. P300 a day po ang bayad. Humihingi pa kami ng tulong sa mga may mabubuting kalooban. Wala kaming kapera-pera. Lumuwas lang po kami ng Maynila para maipagamot siya," Llera's 30-year-old mother Lone said.

Mother and daughter have taken shelter for one year now at the Child House Foundation of beauty expert Ricky Reyes at the back of Quezon Institute, Quezon City.

Those who want to help Charina can call 414-2421 or 0928-4533938. Donations can be deposited at Landbank, Account Number 3106-0126 94. Santiago Alcantara

Apology in time saves erring American from deportation

By Tarra Quismundo

AN APOLOGY AND A TOUCHING tale spared an American from deportation and a stiff fine after he allegedly hit the roof and vented his anger on immigration officials at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 2 yesterday.

Immigration officials, bristling after they said they were at the receiving end of tirades from Terry David Brink, eventually pardoned the American after he apologized and attributed his outburst to a medical condition.

The officials were also apparently moved by Brink's story that he was here to help repair the house of his Filipino wife's family in Agusan del Norte, airport immigration chief Ferdinand Sampol said.

"He was disrespectful to our immigration officers. We would have boarded him on the next flight back to the US but he apologized and explained that he had a condition, that he was already stressed because of the long flight, and that he came here

to repair the house of his wife's family," said Sampol.

Brink, who flew in via a Philippine Airlines flight from Los Angeles, was told to move to another line by immigration officer Victor Ferrer as he had queued up for the counter for the processing of travel papers of Filipinos.

"I was about to process his travel documents when he let out a stream of unsavory words," Ferrer said. "He was told to calm down but he instead answered in a loud voice and shouted curses," said Ferrer in his report.

The American was excluded from the line and brought to the immigration office for questioning.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan, who had come to send off President Macapagal-Arroyo who was on her way to Australia, got wind of the incident and asked to see Brink.

Apologizing for his behavior, Brink was sent on his way after immigration officers listened to his story, waiving the P50,000 fine he would have paid so it could be used for his repair project in Agusan.

Frat . . .

From page A21

involved in recruiting Mendez had disappeared

An autopsy revealed that Mendez was badly beaten, bolstering initial suspicions that his death was related to initiation rites for fraternity neophytes.

On Wednesday, the NCPAG withdrew its recognition of Ariel Paolo Ante as chair of the college's student council for loss of confidence and dereliction of duty. Brillantes said Ante, a Sigma Rho officer, was an "aggressive" recruiter for the fraternity.

Some NCPAG students reportedly executed a sworn statement attesting that Ante recruited Mendez to Sigma Rho, according to the NBI.

Lawyer Romulo Asis, chief of the NBI Anti-Terrorism Division, said they received information the sworn statement was now with the UP legal department.

Since Mendez's body was brought to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center on Aug. 27, Ante and other Sigma Rho members had not appeared to explain their side.

Asis said they were trying to get a copy of the alleged document from the UP legal department.

METRO

Citizen's Call

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- Garbage dumped on your street unmakes your day?
- Street diggings forever on the street where you live?
- Are you up in arms against the demolition of an ancestral house?
- Arise by a little-known barangay project with a big positive impact in your community?
- Got stuck in potholes?
- Fed up with cursing and slandering neighbors?
- Is there an everyday role model in your neighborhood?
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Report pins Israel for Lebanon war civilian deaths

JERUSALEM—INDISCRIMINATE Israeli shelling caused most of the Lebanese civilian deaths in last year's war, Human Rights Watch said on Thursday.

The findings, in a new report by the New York-based group, challenged Israel's argument that Hezbollah guerrillas were to blame for fighting within Lebanese towns and villages during the 34-day conflict in July and August 2006.

Citing five months of research in areas hit by Israeli air

strikes, and artillery, Human Rights Watch said it found no evidence of Hezbollah guerrillas systematically using civilians as "human shields."

The group, which also condemned Hezbollah rocket attacks on Israel, faulted Israeli forces for attacking political and social wings of the Iranian-backed Shiite movement.

"Hezbollah fighters often didn't carry their weapons in the open or regularly wear military uniforms, which made them a

hard target to identify," Human Rights Watch executive director Kenneth Roth said in a statement ahead of the report's release.

"But this doesn't justify the Israeli Defense Forces' failure to distinguish between civilians and combatants, and if in doubt to treat a person as a civilian, as the laws of war require."

Some 1,200 people in Lebanon, including around 270 guerrillas, died in the war, which was triggered by a deadly Hezbollah border raid. Also

killed were 158 Israelis, most of them military personnel.

Israel said its forces, which overran Hezbollah's strongholds, had acted lawfully.

"We conform with accepted norms in the conduct of military conflict and we conformed with the accepted norms in the conduct of the rules of war," said Mark Regev, spokesperson for Israel's Foreign Ministry.

Regev cited UN relief coordinator Jan Egeland, who told CNN on July 26, 2006 that Hezbollah

guerrillas were unlawfully

"shielding themselves close to UN posts and close to the civilian population." Egeland also condemned Israel's tactics.

Regev said "Hezbollah had a clear pattern of behavior where it embedded itself among the Lebanese civilian population and exploited it as human shields. This is not just the Israeli understanding."

Human Rights Watch said Hezbollah mostly operated away from civilians. It said Hezbollah

on some occasions endangered noncombatants by firing rockets from, or storing weapons in, populated areas, but that this did not constitute "shielding." Israel often warned civilians to flee areas of suspected Hezbollah activity before launching military strikes, Human Rights Watch noted. But it said many civilians were unable to leave and that Israel should have taken this into account.

"Issuing warnings doesn't make indiscriminate attacks lawful," Roth said. Reuters

Burma monks take 20 security troops hostage

RANGOON—HUNDREDS OF Buddhist monks have taken about 20 members of Burma's security forces hostage inside their monastery, one day after clashes broke out at an antigovernment protest, residents said Thursday.

The security forces came to the monastery to apologize for the violence Wednesday in the central town of Pakokku, about 500 km north of the country's commercial capital Rangoon, residents said by telephone.

At least three monks were injured after security forces fired shots into the air and used bamboo sticks to disperse a crowd of 300 monks who were protesting against a massive hike in fuel prices, they said.

The monks locked the security forces inside the monastery and set four of their vehicles on fire, the residents said.

"The monks told the people in the town not to participate in this matter. They want to solve the problem themselves," one resident said.

The gates to the Aletalk monastery, where about 700 monks live, have been locked since 10:30 a.m., the residents said.

All the town's shops had

closed as hundreds of people poured into the streets to applaud the monks from outside the gate, one resident said.

"The security forces outside the monastery are too afraid to go near the crowd. They won't even show their walkie talkies," said another resident.

"I fully support the monks. They were just peacefully praying for the people. The monks are absolutely right," he said. "I'm surprised that these security people would dare to harm Buddhist monks in this country."

Monks are important cultural standard-bearers in this devoutly Buddhist nation, also known as Myanmar. Their participation was credited with helping to bring popular support to a pro-democracy uprising in 1988.

Those protests were brutally crushed by the military, when soldiers opened fire on the crowds in the streets of Rangoon and killed hundreds, if not thousands.

The protest Wednesday in Pakokku was the first time that uniformed soldiers are believed to have been deployed to break up one of the near-daily protests that have erupted around the country since Aug. 19



THE PRINCE AND I

Japanese Princess Kiko holding her son Hisahito on her arrival at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on Sept. 6. Prince Hisahito, the Japanese imperial family's first male heir to be born in 41 years, celebrated his first birthday on Thursday.



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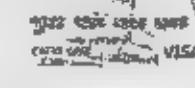
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US general sanctioned in Haditha slays



IRAQI children fleeing their country for Syria on a bus.

WASHINGTON—A TWO STAR general and two other officers were censured Wednesday for failing to promptly investigate the killings of 24 civilians at Haditha, Iraq, but were cleared of a coverup, the military said.

The US Marine Corps said "letters of censure" were issued by the secretary of the Navy to the former commanding general of the 2nd Marine Division, Major General Richard Huck, and two colonels—a regimental

commander and Huck's former chief of staff.

Lieutenant General James Mattis, who reviewed their performance, "did not find any evidence that these senior officers intended to cover up the incident," the Marines said in a statement.

"He did determine that their actions, or inactions, demonstrated lack of due diligence on the part of senior commanders and staff."

A secretarial letter of censure

is the severest form of administrative sanction, and goes into an officer's official military record.

A senior Marine officer who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity, said it would be "very difficult" for an officer to be promoted after receiving such a letter. It could also lead to their retirement at a lower grade.

Navy Secretary Donald Winter signed the letters of censure on Wednesday, the officer said.

Marine Commandant General James Conway said in a statement the officers' "actions, their inactions, and decisions in the aftermath of the Haditha incident did not meet the high standards we expect of Marine senior officer leadership."

Marines killed 24 Iraqi civilians at Haditha on Nov. 19, 2005 but commanders did not investigate the deaths until the following February after an investigative report into the

killing by Time magazine. "The essential issue was that no investigation was initiated immediately," the Marine officer said.

The Marines had initially claimed in a press release that 15 civilians were killed in the roadside explosion that also killed a Marine on patrol.

But Time found witnesses who said the Marines went on a rampage after the Marine was killed.

APP

Panel sees 12 to 18 months before Iraq can handle security

WASHINGTON—A REPORT BY AN INDEPENDENT commission created by Congress says that it will be at least 12 to 18 months before Iraq's army and police can take charge of the country's security, pushing further into the future estimates of when American forces can step back from their leading role.

The finding is the latest in a series of ever-lengthening predictions by American officials about when Iraqi forces might be able to operate independently. In February, a national intelligence estimate also put the timeline as at least a year. Since 2005, senior American military commanders in Iraq have said that Iraq's security forces would soon be able to take the leading security role in parts of the country.

The 20-member commission, headed by retired Gen. James L. Jones of the Marines, found that the Iraqi armed forces, especially the army, were steadily improving but still suffering from "limited operational effectiveness," according to a copy of the panel's report that was being circulated Wednesday in advance of its formal release.

The assessment is to be made public at a congressional hearing on Thursday, and it is likely to become the newest focus in intensive jockeying between Democrats and Republicans over whether limited gains from the current American strategy in Iraq mean that the United States should shift course.

Democrats, who are pressing for a speedy reduction of American combat troops in Iraq, may use the report to argue for shifting additional resources into training Iraqi police and army units. Democratic lawmakers who have returned recently from Iraq have called attention to what they called surprising improvements in the Iraqi army, which they contend can allow the United States to draw down rapidly without leaving Iraq in chaos.

The report provided some basis for that view, saying that while there had been "uneven progress" overall in the military and the police, there also "should be increasing improvement in both their readiness and their capability to provide for the internal security of Iraq."

The report by the commission was most harshly critical of the Iraqi police, calling them "incapable" of protecting Iraqi neighborhoods. In a finding that was initially reported last week, the panel called for the disbanding of the Shute-dominated 26,000-member national police, which the report said was crippled by public distrust and sectarianism.



A MEMBER of the African Mission in Sudan stands guard during a visit of the United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon to the internally displaced persons of the Al Salam camp on Sept. 5 in El Fasher, in the Sudanese region of Darfur.

UN chief: World hasn't done enough to end war, human suffering in Darfur

AL-FASHER, SUDAN—UNITED NATIONS chief Ban Ki-moon visited the strife-torn Sudanese region of Darfur Wednesday, admitting the international community has not done enough to end four years of war and human suffering.

Ban, who is in Sudan to jumpstart the Darfur peace process ahead of a massive UN-African Union peacekeeping operation, arrived in the North Darfur capital of Al-Fasher to witness firsthand the plight of those displaced by the conflict.

"For too long the international community has stood by, as seemingly helpless witnesses. That is now changing," Ban had said in a speech in the southern Sudanese capital of Juba on Tuesday.

The UN Secretary General has been pushing for negotiations alongside the peacekeeping operation, and said details were being worked out for talks between the Khartoum government and Darfur rebel groups that did not sign a troubled May 2006 peace agreement.

"As far as the political negotiation process is concerned, we are coming close to agreeing on a venue and date," Ban told reporters travelling with him. "I hope I'll be able to finalise it very soon." A UN official said on condition of anonymity that the talks were likely to take place in October, "somewhere in Africa, perhaps in Tanzania." After talks with the governor of North Darfur, Ban was met by a small demonstration as he made his way to the UN mission headquarters for discussions with representatives of the more than two million displaced people in Darfur.

Several dozen men and women, who said they too had been driven from their homes, protested at being excluded from the talks.

"Darfur is ours," they shouted. "We want to be represented." The soft-spoken UN chief reassured the demonstrators he was ready to listen to anyone, before being ushered away by his security detail.

After a brief delay, Ban resumed his schedule, including a meeting with three representatives of the displaced and another with civil society and traditional leaders, the UN said in a statement.

Later during a visit to the Al-Salam camp near Al-Fasher, Ban was greeted by refugees chanting the name of Abdel Wahid Nur, the rebel leader still refusing to take part in negotiations with Khartoum.

Nur boycotted peace talks at the Tanzanian city of Arusha this month, where eight rebel groups agreed a common platform for peace talks with the Sudanese government, sponsored by the UN and the African Union. Ban called on Nur to join the political process.

The UN estimates that at least 200,000 people have died in Darfur since an uprising launched by ethnic minority rebels in 2003 drew a scorched earth response from the Sudanese military and allied militias. AFP

"These are potent drugs that can have serious and life-threatening consequences if misused. Parents in particular need to be aware of this problem and take steps to prevent these medications from falling into the wrong hands," Cline added.

The agency said 3.2 million Americans were dependent on or abused both alcohol and illicit drugs and 3.8 million were dependent on or abused illicit drugs but not alcohol.

Another 15.6 million were dependent on or abused alcohol but not illicit drugs, the agency added.

The report showed that fewer adolescents ages 12 to 17 said they had used illicit drugs in the prior month — the rate dropped from 11.6 percent in 2002 to 9.9 percent in 2005 and 9.8 percent in 2006. Reuters

Britain to allow creation of human-animal embryos

LONDON—BRITAIN'S FERTILITY regulator decided in principle Wednesday to allow scientists to create human-animal hybrid embryos for research purposes, as experts downplayed ethical concerns.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) gave the go-ahead to controversial plans to create "cytoplasmic" embryos, which merge a tiny bit of human DNA with eggs from animals such as cattle or rabbits.

Scientists argue such research could pave the way for therapies for diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

Applications to proceed with such work from researchers at Newcastle University in northeast England and King's College London can now be appraised by a licence committee in November.

An HFEA consultation out earlier this week found people were "at ease" with the proposals once the possible implications had been explained.

An HFEA spokeswoman accepted public opinion was divided and said their decision was a tough one to make.

"This is not a total green light for hybrid research, but recognition that this area of research can, with caution and careful scrutiny, be permitted," she said.

The use and destruction of embryos in research is a highly sensitive subject in the United States, for political and religious reasons.

US President George W. Bush has twice vetoed a bill seeking to allow federal funds for stem cell research as it would involve human embryo destruction.

Some experts backed the decision, while a government minister welcomed it.

"It does seem a little abhorrent at first analysis," said Newcastle University's Doctor Lyle Armstrong, who helped to create the world's first cloned human embryo in 2005.

"But you have to understand we are using very, very little information from the cow in order to do this reprogramming idea."

"It's not our intention to create any bizarre cow-human hybrid, we want to use those cells to understand how to make human stem cells better." The government's minister for science and innovation Ian Pearson added that the decision was "in the best interests of science."

"The creation of cytoplasmic hybrid embryos offers an important experimental tool in the search for new treatments for currently incurable diseases such as Parkinson's Disease," he said.



HARRISON, 18, charged with murder Sept. 5.

Student dies in fight with roommate

PHOENIX—AN 18-YEAR-OLD student died Wednesday after an early morning fight with another woman who had been her roommate, in their dormitory room at the University of Arizona in Tucson, the police said.

The university police identified the dead woman as Mia Henderson, a freshman and member of the Navajo Nation in northern Arizona. She apparently died of stab wounds, said Sgt. Eugene Mejia of the campus police.

The roommate, also an 18-year-old from the Navajo Nation, was treated on Wednesday at a hospital for injuries that were not life threatening, Mejia said.

The campus police declined to release the name of the roommate, who is also a freshman.

JAKARTA, INDONESIA—RUSSIA's military clout in Asia was set for a boost Thursday when President Vladimir Putin witnessed the signing of a US\$1 billion defense deal that will help Indonesia purchase dozens of helicopters, tanks and submarines.

The two nations also hope that, by strengthening military and economic ties, they will be able to counterbalance growing U.S. influence in global affairs, analysts said.

Putin, making a one-day stopover to the world's most populous Muslim nation, will provide Indonesia's cash-strapped government with a US\$1 billion loan, repayable over the next 15 years, officials said.

It will receive 15 helicopters, 20 tanks, and two submarines, said Defense Minister Juwono Sudarsono.

"Part of this is to reduce our dependency on the United States," which was formerly the country's largest supplier of weaponry, he said.

Putin's visit is the first by a Russian or Soviet leader to Indonesia in nearly five decades.

It comes amid chilling relations with the United States, which has criticized Russia's



RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin, left, shakes hands with Indonesian generals upon his arrival at a military base outside Jakarta, Indonesia, on Sept. 6.

democracy record. Moscow, in turn, distrusts Washington's growing influence in global politics and has courted allies with similar deals.

It held joint military exercises with China — the first ever on Russian soil — several weeks ago and has negotiated agreements with Malaysia and other countries across the region to buy fighter jets.

Putin said he was especially eager to strengthen ties with Indonesia, a sprawling nation with more than 200 million Muslims. A series of other energy deals worth billions of dollars also will be clinched on Thursday.

AP

"We are ready to enhance cooperation with all interested parties to building an equitable world order, ensuring stability and security at both global and regional levels," the Russian leader wrote in an opinion piece that appeared Thursday in The Jakarta Post.

AP

AP

Hyundai boss escapes jail over huge slush fund

SEOUL—THE HEAD OF THE WORLD'S sixth largest automaker on Thursday escaped a jail sentence for creating a multimillion-dollar slush fund, after an appeals court ruled that his imprisonment would badly damage South Korea's economy.

The Seoul high court quashed a three-year prison sentence on Hyundai Automotive Group chair Chung Mong-koo and replaced it with a suspended sentence.

It ordered him to undertake community service—including delivering speeches on the need for ethics in business—and make good on his pledge to donate one billion dollars to charity.

"The court has been agonizing over whether to put the accused in jail or keep him out of prison," said chief judge Lee Jae-Hong.

"But in consideration of the huge economic impact that could result

from imprisonment, it decided to suspend the sentence." Chung, 69, had been sentenced to jail in February for breach of trust and embezzling 90 billion won (\$97 million) in company funds through fraudulent accounting. He had been free on bail pending appeal.

He displayed no emotion after the ruling and declined to answer questions. Business leaders and Hyundai hailed the decision but activists campaigning to clean up the country's corporate culture expressed dismay.

The group, which includes affiliate Kia Motors, controls 70 percent of the South Korean auto market and accounts for 5.4 percent of gross domestic product.

Suspending the sentence for five years, the court ordered Chung to make speeches and write articles on the need for businessmen to obey the law.

Prosecutors accused the Chung family of raising the slush fund through a Hyundai Motor unit to bribe government officials, politicians and bankers in return for business favors.

They had urged the appeals court to double the original jail term.

"We are greatly relieved that this matter is finally over," Hyundai said in a statement. "We can now devote our full energies to addressing the numerous challenges that face us and building a global brand."

"We look forward to honoring our commitments made earlier to expanding our corporate social responsibility, the funding of charitable causes and improving management transparency."

Chung had admitted the existence of the slush fund but said he was not directly involved in embezzlement. He had said he felt "ashamed and sorry"

for failing to correct past malpractices.

The massive conglomerates, known as chaebol, spearheaded the economy's dramatic recovery from the ruins of the 1950-53 Korean war. But their business practices were blamed for helping trigger the financial crisis of the late 1990s.

"The court gave an indulgence for criminal activity and corporate corruption by businessmen," Park Kun-yong, of the People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy, said.

"The ruling reminds us again that chaebol can get away with anything. Our country must not tolerate business misconduct by chaebol any longer."

Kang Chul-Koo, general director of the Korea Automobile Manufacturers Association, welcomed the decision.

"As global competition in the auto industry is getting tougher and tougher every day, the court has given

chair Chung an opportunity to make contributions to the country's auto industry and economy," he said.

South Korean auto exports last year were worth \$43.2 billion.

Chung's lawyers have said the slush fund was spent helping improve the productivity and morale of employees and expanding sales networks, as well as for making donations to politicians.

Chung took over the group in 1999 and aims to make it the world's number five carmaker. Analysts credit him with transforming it into a leading global brand by focusing on quality.

But it has been plagued by labor disputes and growing price competition from its Japanese rivals due to the strong Korean won.

Net profit plunged 34 percent to 1.53 trillion won last year. APP

Milestones in chairman's fraud case

HERE ARE THE MILESTONES Chung's legal case.

• 1970: Chung joins Hyundai Motor as a director at the Seoul office.

• 1978: Chung and his late father and Hyundai founder Chung Ju-yung are cleared after an investigation into corrupt property deals. Chung Mong-koo is arrested and jailed for 75 days over construction regulations infringements, but freed on a 5 million won (\$5,334) fine.

• 1999: Chung Mong-koo becomes chair of Hyundai Motor Group.

• Aug. 4, 2003: Chung Mong-hun, Chung Mong-koo's younger brother and then chair of Hyundai Asan, jumps to his death while facing trial over an alleged \$500 million secret "cash for summit" payment to Pyongyang before the landmark June 2000 North/South summit. He was also accused of doctoring company books and embezzling 15 billion won.

• June 18, 2004: Hyundai Motor Group vice chair Kim Dong-jin and Korean Air chief executive Cho Yang-ho are given suspended two-year and one-year jail terms respectively, for raising a slush fund to support politi-



CHUNG Mong-koo, chairman of Hyundai Motor group, on trial for embezzlement on Sept. 6.

cians in the 2002 presidential race. Both get to keep their jobs.

• March 26, 2006: South Korean prosecutors raid Hyundai group units such as Hyundai Motor and Kia Motors Corp. over a probe into suspected illegal political lobbying.

• April 19, 2006: Hyundai Motor says the Chung family will donate \$1 billion in shares of the group's au-

m to shipping affiliate Glovis Co. Ltd. to atone for the bribery scandal.

• April 28, 2006: Chung is arrested on charges of misusing company funds.

• May 16, 2006: South Korea indicted Chung, who is officially charged with breach of trust and embezzling 103.4 billion won in company funds, some for personal use, and for incurring losses at group companies by forcing them to support weaker affiliates.

• June 28, 2006: Chung is released on \$1-million bail.

• Jan. 16, 2007: Prosecutors demand a six-year jail term for Chung.

• Feb. 5, 2007: Chung is found guilty of breach of trust and embezzling company funds and sentenced to three years in jail.

• Feb. 12, 2007: Prosecutors and Chung appeal the three-year jail sentence.

• Jun. 19, 2007: Prosecutors seek to double the jail sentence for Chung to 6 years.

• Sept. 6, 2007: South Korea's appeals court upholds the lower court conviction and hands Chung a 3-year jail term suspended for 5 years.

Source: Reuters and Hyundai Motor Group

Over 40 Taliban killed in Afghanistan

KABUL—AFGHAN and US-led coalition forces killed more than 40 insurgents in a 12-hour battle in a restive southern province, taking the guerrilla death toll to nearly 200 in a fortnight, the US military said on Thursday.

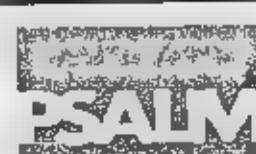
Suspected Islamist Taliban insurgents ambushed a coalition patrol in villages in Kandahar province's Shah Wali Kot district with small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades, the US military said in a statement.

Kandahar has been the site of repeated clashes in recent months.

"The extremist fighters were visually observed firing on the patrol from compounds located within the villages," the statement said.

"Throughout the engagement, insurgents reinforced their positions with an estimated 150 additional fighters. Coalition aircraft destroyed the positively identified enemy firing positions with precision guided munitions."

The Taliban said they were unaware of any ground fighting in the Shah Wali Kot district on Wednesday, but said they had downed an American helicopter in the area. Reuters



POWER SECTOR ASSETS & LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation ("PSALM") Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee (the "Committee") invites interested parties to participate in and bid for the privatization of the following:

The Generation Package consisting of the 192.5 MW Palinpinon Geothermal Power Plant located in Puhagan, Valencia, Negros Oriental and the 146.5 MW Panay Diesel Power Plant located in Tinocuan, Dingkle, Iloilo

(the "Asset"). The Asset is being privatized on an "as is where is" basis and will include a power supply allocation. The Committee reserves the right at any time prior to the Documentary Deliverables Deadline (as defined in the Bidding Procedures) to determine the final Asset to be sold. Hence, the Asset that will be the subject of the bid may consist of both the Palinpinon Plant and the Panay Plant, the Palinpinon Plant alone, or the Panay Plant alone.

Interested parties must submit a Letter of Interest ("LOI") to the Committee which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. All LOIs must be received by the Committee at the PSALM Office with address at the 7th Floor Bankmer Building, 6758 Ayala Avenue, Makati City not later than 8:00 p.m. on 17 September 2007 (the "LOI Submission Deadline"). Only interested parties that submit an LOI shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 7 of RA 9136, both in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand U.S. Dollars (\$ 2,000.00), (the "Participation Fee"). The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall be for the account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking and Participation Fee must be received by the Committee on or before 5:00 p.m. on 19 September 2007 to entitle an interested party further participation in the privatization of the Asset.

The Bidding Package which includes the Bidding Procedures shall be issued during office hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from 17 September until 26 September 2007 (the "Deadline") at the PSALM Office. Only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline or consortium (as described below) will be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

Interested parties that submit the LOI must be the party that will participate in the privatization process, submit a bid and enter into the pertinent agreements. Once an interested party submits the Confidentiality Agreement and Undertaking and pays the Participation Fee, such interested party may no longer be substituted in the privatization process, except through a consortium in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Bidding Procedures, among the requirements of which are: (i) such interested party must own at least a majority of the shares outstanding and entitled to vote in such consortium, (ii) the consortium must be a juridical entity; and (iii) a letter requesting to bid through consortium must be submitted to the Committee on or before the deadline set for the same in the Bidding Procedures.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Due Diligence . 17 September 2007 to 3 December 2007
Pre-Bid Conference 28 September 2007 2:00 p.m. at the PSALM Office
Bid Submission Deadline 5 December, 12:00 noon at the PSALM Office

References to the dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. Interested Parties will be required to post a bid security equivalent to Eight Million U.S. Dollars (U.S.\$8,000,000.00) in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit which must be acceptable to the Committee. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted by a performance security to guarantee prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction. The details of the privatization of the Asset are contained in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 7th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6758 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr. Froilan A. Tampinco at the PSALM Office or at telefax number (632) 892-6029 or e-mail address psalmipo@psalm.gov.ph.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proposals or bids therefrom, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer advantageous to the Government, without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the privatization process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the privatization process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without giving prior notice. Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

(Sgd.) ANGELO T. REYES
Chairman
PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDN - September 7, 8 & 9, 2007)

Supreme Court of the Philippines Judicial and Bar Council Manila



ANNOUNCEMENT

The Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) announces that

I. Pursuant to its policy and practice, the following first five qualified Associate Justices of the Court of Appeals are automatically considered for nomination for the position of ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT vice Hon. Cancio C. Garcia, who will compulsorily retire on 20 October 2007. Acting Presiding Justice CONRAD M. VASQUEZ JR. and Associate Justices PORTIA ALINÓ-HORMACHELOS, MARTIN S. VILLARAMA, JR.; ANDRES B. REYES, JR.; and REMEDIOS SALAZAR-FERNANDO. The other candidates are Secretary ARTURO D. BRION; Justice EDGARDO P. CRUZ; Justice TERESA LEONARDO-DE CASTRO; Justice TERESA DY-LIACCO FLORES; Justice JOSE L. SABIO, JR.; Justice EDILBERTO G. SANDOVAL; and Justice FRANCISCO H. VILLARUZ, JR.

Conformably with Section 1, Rule 7 of the Rules of the JBC (JBC-009), as amended, the public is hereby invited to the panel interview of Justices REMEDIOS S. FERNANDO and JOSE L. SABIO, JR., on September 28, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Division Hearing Room, Ground Floor, New Supreme Court Building. Justice EDGARDO P. CRUZ was already interviewed by the JBC on 19 January 2007, and the rest on March 28 and 29, 2007.

II. The following Senior Associate Justices of the Court of Appeals are also automatically considered for nomination for the position of PRESIDING JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS (vice Hon. Ruben T. Reyes, who was appointed as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court on July 25, 2007) and will be publicly interviewed at the Division Hearing Room, Ground Floor, New Supreme Court Building on September 27, 2007, together with the other applicant Justice Remedios S. Fernando:

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 NOON

1. COSICO, RODRIGO V.
2. FERNANDO, REMEDIOS SALAZAR
3. HORMACHELOS, PORTIA ALINÓ

2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

1. REYES ANDRES JR. B.
2. VASQUEZ CONRADO JR. M.
3. VILLARAMA, MARTIN JR. S.

The public may submit sworn complaint, written report or opposition against any of the aforesaid candidates for the positions of Supreme Court Associate Justice and Court of Appeals Presiding Justice NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 17, 2007, to the JBC Secretariat, 2nd Flr Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court, Padre Faure St., Manila (Tel. No. 552-5612; Fax No. 552-5958, e-mail address jbc.supremecourt@yahoo.com.ph,

III. Judgeship positions in the following courts are now open for application or recommendation.

A. Vacant Courts

NCJR

MALABON CITY

RTC Br 170

MARIKINA CITY

RTC Br 263

PASIG CITY

RTC Br 151

QUEZON CITY

METC Brs.31 & 32

MANILA

RTC Br.11

NUEVA ECIJA

MTC Guimba

TARLAC

1st MCTC Sta. Ignacia-Mayapaoc

San Clemente-San Jose

4th MCTC Moncada-San Manuel-Anao

REGION VII

BILIRAN

RTC Br. 16 Naval

NORTHERN SAMAR

5th MCTC Mondragon-San Roque

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

B-52 carried nukes over US by mistake

WASHINGTON—THE US MILITARY SAID ON Wednesday it was investigating an alarming security lapse when a B-52 bomber flew the length of the country last week loaded with six nuclear-armed cruise missiles.

The blunder was reported to President George W. Bush after the nuclear warheads were discovered when the aircraft landed at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, a military official said on condition of anonymity.

An air force official, who also asked to remain unnamed, said the B-52, which originated at Minot Air Base in North Dakota,

had six cruise missiles with nuclear warheads loaded on pylons under its wings.

The US Air Force has relieved the munition squadron commander at Minot Air Base in North Dakota of his duties, and launched an investigation into the Aug. 30 incident, a Pentagon spokesperson said.

"At no time was there a threat

to public safety," said Lt. Col. Ed Thomas.

"It is important to note that munitions were safe, secure and under military control at all times."

The Pentagon would not provide details, citing secrecy rules, but an expert said the incident was unprecedented, and pointed to a disturbing lapse in the air force's command and control system.

"It seems so fantastic that so many points, checks can dysfunction," he said Hans Kristensen, an expert on US nuclear forces.

"We have so many points and

checks specifically so we don't have these kinds of incidents," he said.

US lawmakers expressed outrage at the incident.

"It is absolutely inexcusable that the Air Force lost track of these five nuclear warheads, even for a short period of time," Representative Edward Markey, a Democrat on the House Homeland Security Committee, said in a statement.

"Nothing like this has ever been reported before and we have been assured for decades that it was impossible," said Markey.

Two Republican lawmakers on committees overseeing military affairs, Jim Saxton and Terry Everett, said in a joint statement they were "deeply concerned" by the incident and said the United States must "ensure our nuclear assets are protected by the highest safeguards."

The breach originally was reported by the Military Times newspaper Wednesday and was confirmed by the Pentagon later in the day.

US Defense Secretary Robert Gates was notified early Friday of the incident by Air Force chief of staff Gen. Michael "Buzz"

Moseley, Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell said.

"I can also tell you that it was important enough that President Bush was notified of it," Morrell said.

Gates has received daily briefings from Moseley on the incident, and expects a report by the end of next week, he said.

"The munitions squadron commander has been relieved of his duties, and final action is pending the outcome of the investigation," he said.

"In addition, other airmen were decertified from their duties involving munitions." AFP

Germany searching for 10 suspects behind attack plot

BERLIN—GERMAN AUTHORITIES were searching Thursday for about 10 suspected supporters of an Islamic group linked to al-Qaida who are believed to have assisted the three militants arrested earlier this week in their foiled bomb plot, an official said.

Authorities believed "some 10" further suspects provided support to the two German converts and a Turkish citizen who were arrested Tuesday on suspicion of plotting attacks on US and other facilities here, August Hanning, a top security official, told ARD broadcaster.

"This is the network that we are aware of at the moment," Hanning said, adding that authorities believe the splintered cell—which includes more converted Germans, Turkish and other citizens—no longer poses a direct security threat.

The three arrested suspects had military-style detonators and enough material to make bombs more powerful than

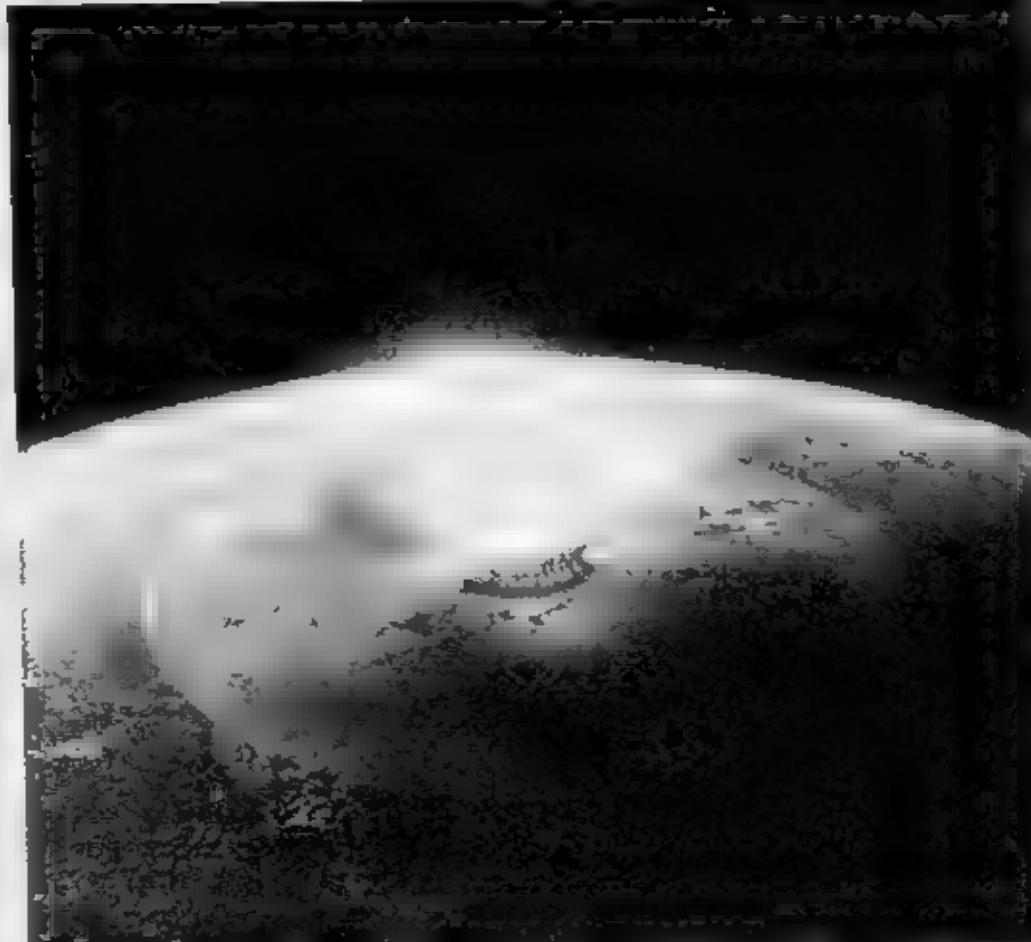
those that killed 191 people in Madrid in 2004 and 52 commuters in London two years ago, prosecutors said Wednesday.

"We were able to succeed in recognizing and preventing the most serious and massive bombings," German Federal Prosecutor Monika Harms said at a news conference. She declined to name specific targets.

In Washington, a senior US State Department official said German investigators had determined the Frankfurt International Airport and the nearby US Ramstein Air Base were the primary targets of the plot, but that those arrested may have also been considering strikes on other sites, particularly facilities associated with the United States.

Germany's announcement was the second in two days that a major attack had been foiled in Europe, after Danish authorities arrested eight alleged Islamic militants with links to senior al-Qaida terrorists.

AP



THE DAY THE DINOSAURS BEGAN TO DIE

Computer generated simulation shows an asteroid striking the Earth in Mexico's Yucatan peninsula around 65 million years ago. The extinction of the dinosaurs about that time can be traced to a collision between two monster rocks in the asteroid belt nearly 100 million years earlier, scientists reported on Sept. 5.

AP

It's your city: How will you power it?

SINGAPORE—IF YOU RAN A CITY, WHAT energy source would you use—cheap coal, or costly but environmentally friendly solar power?

As oil prices near record highs, US energy major Chevron is inviting people to deal with a potential future energy supply crunch in an online game called Energyville, which uses real data and scenarios to power a city until 2030.

Players in the free game, designed by The Economist Group, can choose from sources such as biomass, natural gas, nuclear and petroleum, with oil shale and hydrogen being added to the mix by 2015. Players can also invest in energy efficiency.

"Energyville is an engaging way of looking at the real-world decisions that have to be made in meeting rising global energy needs," said Rhonda Zygocki, Chevron's vice president of Policy, Government and Public Affairs, in a statement.

The game looks at the economic, environmental and security trade-offs and opportunities from different energy sources to power offices, factories and vehicles in a city of almost 4 million people—about the size of Singapore—combined with random events that affect choices.

Reuters

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SM SUPERMARKET HOLDS BLUE OCEAN STRATEGY SEMINAR FOR SME'S

The food retail industry is one that is filled with intense competition and struggle for differentiation. In a field where the market share seems saturated, and where competition include some of the Fortune 100 companies, it is a big challenge for smaller companies to make their mark in the industry.

SM Supermarket shall hold the "BLUE OCEAN STRATEGY" seminar as part of its advocacy to help support Small and Medium Enterprises achieve better market reach. The seminar is absolutely free and aims to teach these companies new strategies to reach their goals by making competition irrelevant. The seminar will discuss how these companies can achieve high growth by reaching beyond existing demand to find a "blue ocean" of market space and to formulate their unique strategy to develop new products and new profit sources.

The seminar/workshop shall be by marketing guru, Mr. Josiah Go, Chairman and Chief Marketing Strategist of Mansmith and Fielders, Inc. and the first and only person to have successfully completed the Blue Ocean Strategy qualification process in France and the first-ever professor of the Blue Ocean Strategy in Southeast Asia.

The BLUE OCEAN STRATEGY Seminar will be held at SM Mall of Asia's Centerstage on Wednesday, September 12, 2007, from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon.



ATENEO'S Emmanuel Monfort drives past State U's Woodward Co (left) and Andrew Marfori.

RYAN LIM

SPORTS

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- Federer tames Roddick anew /A31



Blue Eagles rip Maroons

By Jasmine W. Payo

FORD ARAO AND ERIC SALAMAT GOT ATENEO going in the first half and the Blue Eagles rolled on to the most lopsided win this season in a 93-59 rout of the University of the Philippines Maroons in the UAAP men's basketball tournament yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The Eagles, who even trailed twice in the first half, picked up their fourth straight victory to rise to 8-4 and secure at least a playoff for the Final Four.

"In the first half we were just too relaxed, especially on defense," said coach Norman Black as the third-running Eagles gear up for another heated showdown with arch rival La Salle on Sunday.

"We gave them too many open looks at the bas-

ket. At halftime, I challenged them to come out with more intensity, more fire and they responded by playing much better defense."

The Eagles' 34-point win margin surpassed by three the 97-66 final score the undefeated University of the East also achieved against UP last July 28.

"I got no reason for losing, I assume the responsi-

BLUE EAGLES/A32

PSBank adds a fresh perspective in banking leadership

In the midst of numerous changes, PSBank, the country's second largest savings bank and subsidiary of financial giant Metrobank, is quick to recognize the public's preferences. These are translated into banking options that not only offers exceptional financial services but also provides a fresh perspective in banking leadership.

PSBank president Pascual Garcia III said that being in

touch with customer's choices is integral in developing the right products and services for them. "PSBank clients come from different market segments and we have to tailor-fit our products to suit their varying needs," he added.

A prime example of PSBank's commitment to providing innovative products is the "Thank Goodness It's Five Days" (TGIF) campaign. Clients can expect a credit decision on their home loan ap-

plication in five working days. Since its launch, PSBank experienced a 60.5% increase in its home loan applications. The outstanding performance of the TGIF campaign is due to the 99% success rate of meeting the 5 days turnaround time.

The campaign assures customers of a response about their Home Loan application in five working days or less, provided that they submit all the required documents. If no

credit decision is received by the customers within 5 working days, PSBank is giving a 1% reduction on the first year interest rate for all approved home loans.

The procedure is very simple. The client needs to fill-out a home loan application form and submit it together with the complete required documents at any PSBank branch nationwide.

PSBank's quick credit decision is due to its technological-

ly-advanced loan processing system. Applicants will receive an update automatically via SMS on the status of their application. With a strong inter-branch transaction capability, customers can conveniently apply for a home loan at any of PSBank's 162 branches nationwide even if it is not their home branch.

What's more, PSBank is the first bank to offer fixed terms up to 25 years. Plus, it provides the competitive rates as low as 8.75% fixed for the first year.

"PSBank's TGIF campaign was created to address clients' needs for simple processes when applying for home loans as well as a faster



Metrobank

turnaround time for credit decision on home loan applications. Our TGIF campaign was bestowed the "Best Insight and Strategic Thinking" award during the 2nd Integrated Marketing Communications Effectiveness Awards (IMCEA)." PSBank President Pascual M Garcia III said.

Panalo Ka sa PSBank Home Loan! Give us 5 days. Or else, you get 1% less.*



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rate 4%. That's the PSBank Home Loan Guarantee!

Get the PSBank TGIF Home Loan.

Subject to approval. Minimum amount P50,000.00.

For more details, call PSBank Home Loan Hotline: 1-800-123-1234.

Or visit our website: www.psbank.com.ph

Home Loan

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Promo period is from April 1, 2007 to Dec 31, 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1371 Series

Enjoy 10% discount on Automotive Services at participating Petron Stations. 24-hour fueling, free fuel upon approval for new cardholders, free 24-hour towing service and roadside assistance.



SPORTS

A

Croatia ends Spain's win streak at 28

MADRID—ISRAEL CONDEMNED Serbia to a third straight defeat in Group A, winning 87-83 to send the former great home early from the European Championship along with Latvia, Czech Republic and Poland on Wednesday.

The culmination of the first phase also marked an end to world champion-

on Spain's 28-match unbeaten run in a dramatic 85-84 defeat to Croatia, while holder Greece also lost, 61-53, to Russia.

The top three sides from the four sections move into two groups of six in the second phase, which starts in Madrid on Friday, with the results from the first three days carrying over.

Greece ran into a brick wall, called Andrei Kirilenko as it lost the battle for the top spot in the group. The 2.09 meter Utah Jazz forward caught 17 rebounds and contributed 12 points.

In Palma de Mallorca, Sarunas Jasikevicius steered Lithuania to the top spot in Group C with an 84-80 win over Germany.

Reuters

Ex-Ateneo cager debuts for US Div. I five Nov. 22



By Jasmine W. Payo

JAPETH AGUILAR, the first Philippine-born player to sign up with a US NCAA Division I squad, will debut with the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers in a nationally tele-

vised game. Aguilar—the former Ateneo Blue Eagles center who sat it out for a year due to a US NCAA transfer rule—will see action when the Hilltoppers battle Gonzaga in the 2007 Cars/Safeway Great Alaska Shootout.

The 30th annual Shootout is one of the NCAA's premier early-season events and will be aired on ESPN U on Nov. 22.

The 6-foot-9 Aguilar already made an impression when he ruled the university's slam dunk contest last October.

The 20-year-old Pampanga native led in blocks during his sophomore year in the UAAP before taking a crack at the US collegiate cage scene.

Aguilar, who posted a career-high seven blocks with Ateneo, helped power the Blue Eagles to a Final Four stint in the 2005 UAAP men's basketball tournament.

The son of former PBA cager Peter Aguilar has two years of eligibility left in the US NCAA. His father, a 6-6 center-forward, played for five seasons, starting in 1989, for five teams—Ateneo, Alaska, Seven-Up, Sta. Lucia and Shell.

PRE-SEASON Ginebra takes on P'foods

(SSC Gym, Cavite)
4 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Purefoods

By Musong R. Castillo

REIGNING PHILIPPINE Cup champion Barangay Ginebra clash with Purefoods to take the lid off the PBA's 2007 pre-season tournament tomorrow at the San Sebastian College gym in Cavite.

The Gin Kings and the Tender Juicy Giants, both with practically untouched rosters, tangle at 4 p.m.

Ginebra will welcome back Jayjay Hesterbrand and Mark Caguioa from national duty. Kerby Raymundo will also rejoin Purefoods with James Yap, one of three players last cut from the RP team.

Only Macky Escalona has been added to the Ginebra roster.

Purefoods, which did not pick anyone in the Draft, will also field Marc Pingris, who is back in shape after a career threatening foot injury.

Rock-solid Talk 'N Text, with Asi Taulava, Jimmy Alapag and RenRen Rito also returning, clash with Ar21 on Monday at the Fresnedi gym in Muntinlupa.



JELENA JANKOVIC returns a shot to Venus Williams. AFP



FRANCISCO
BONDS

Bonds smashes No. 762

DENVER, COLORADO—BARRY Bonds, Pedro Feliz and Bengie Molina all homered as the San Francisco Giants snapped a four-game losing streak with a 5-3 win over the Colorado Rockies on Wednesday.

Bonds began the home run parade in the first inning, putting his 762nd Major League Baseball ca-

reer home run off Rockies rookie starter Ubaldo Jimenez, giving the Giants a 2-0 lead.

The two-run blast was his 28th of the season as Jimenez became the 449th pitcher to surrender a homer to the all-time leader. The home run was Bonds' first since August 24 against the Milwaukee Brewers.

Federer tames Roddick anew

NEW YORK—FOR TWO SETS AGAINST Roger Federer at the US Open, Andy Roddick was very good, quite possibly as good as he can be.

For two sets, Roddick banged big serves at up to 146 mph (235 kph), collecting aces and service winners and never double-faulting, never facing a break point.

For two sets, he conjured up groundstroke winners, strong volleys, impressive returns.

And what did all of that superb play Wednesday night earn Roddick? A two-set deficit and, eventually, a 7-6 (5), 7-6 (4), 6-2 loss in the US Open quarterfinals, a round or two earlier than Roddick is accustomed to suc-

cumbing to Federer.

And accustomed Roddick most certainly is, dropping to 1-14 against the man who re-

placed him at No. 1 in the rankings 3½ years ago and has been there since.

"I mean, I'm not walking off with any questions in my head this time. I'm not walking with my head down," Roddick said. "I played the right way."

Roddick, though, reached his record 14th consecutive Grand Slam semifinal thanks in part by being barely better in each tiebreaker.

So, too, was Venus Williams earlier Wednesday, when she came back from a set and a break down to push her quarterfinal against No. 3 Jelena Jankovic into a third set tiebreaker. Williams was solid over those decisive points, Jankovic was slightly shakier, and the American pulled out a 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (4) victory to get

back to the US Open semifinals for the first time since 2002.

Next up is a match against No. 1 Justine Henin.

Instant replay for NBA

NEW YORK—THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL Association has agreed to allow officials to use instant replay for flagrant fouls and fights in 2007-08, the league announced Wednesday.

Recommended by the NBA's competition committee, the decision was approved last week in a vote by the league's board of governors.

The new ruling permits officials to review instant replays in order to determine the severity of a flagrant foul. Under current rules, a player whistled for a Flagrant Fouls, Penalty Two receives an automatic ejection.

Also, officials can turn to replay in order to sort out penalties following on-court altercations.

AFP



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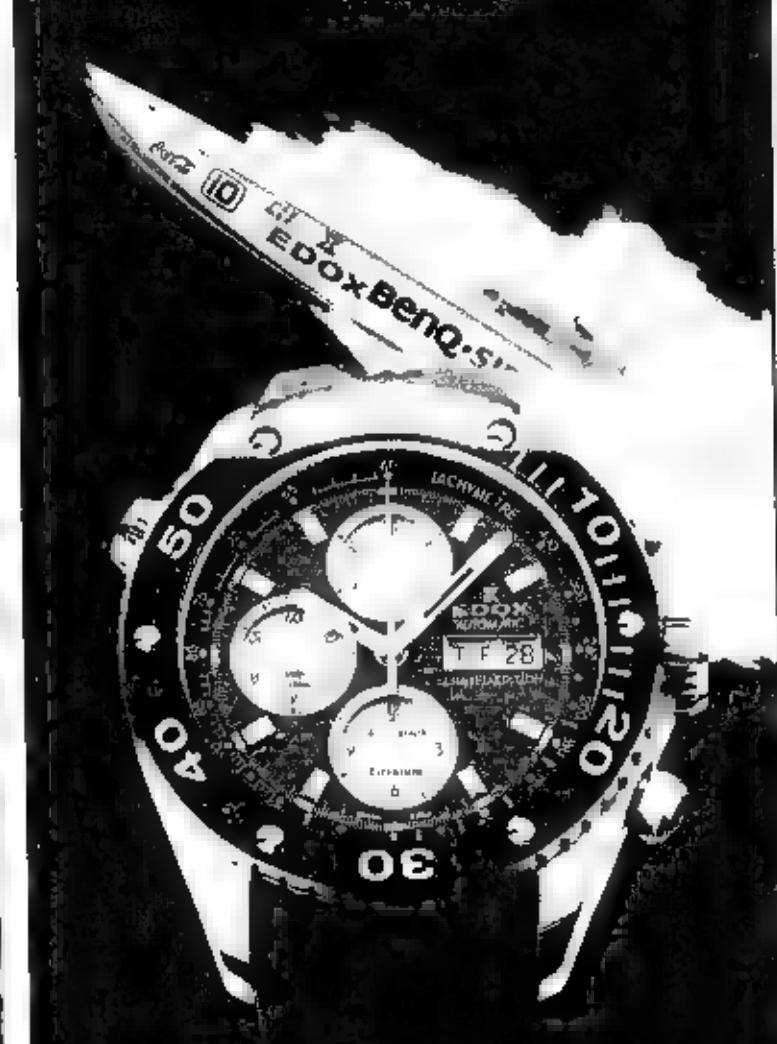
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UM returns to finals, shuts door on AMA

FRANK BONUS JUST LIVED UP TO HIS AUS-
Picious name.

The 6-foot guard provided the endgame spark as University of Manila nipped defending champion AMA, 80-78, yesterday and returned to the finals of the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naasuc) basketball tournament at the San Juan gym.

Bonus, who hails from Tarlac, Tarlac, drilled in 15 of his 24 points, including four three-pointers in the fourth quarter as the Hawks earned the right to face STI in the best-of-three championship series.

UM, winner of five straight titles from 2001 with a historic 83-game winning streak, and STI begin their title playoffs at 4:30 p.m. tomorrow at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The Hawks will gun for their sixth title in the league just like their junior counterparts who will take on St. Clare in a sudden-death finals also tomorrow at 3 p.m.

"I hope this is a resurgence for UM," said UM president Ernesto Delos Santos. "You have seen how much the players wanted to win."

Trailing by seven, 68-75, midway in the fourth, Bonus fired a hail of baskets to fuel a 10-0 blast that gave the Hawks a 78-75 lead.

The scores:

UM 60—Bonus 24, Mallino 12, Assuncion 11, Napiza 9,
Delostinos 9, Pagulao 8, Guimpatan 7, Lacap 0, Facun 0.
AMA 78—Balang 29, Abac 21, Zablan 13, Jaime 8, Vergara
4, Molina 2, Manalang 0, Garcia 0.

Quarters: 17-17, 36-42, 53-61, 60-76 — Marc Reyes

A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2007

SPORTS

RP bets come to grief

Lack of Italian visa thwarts Lavandia, 3 others

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THEY TRAINED HARD FOR THE most part of the year in hopes of defending their world titles—only to be told they have nowhere to go.

The country's track and field legends led by Elma Muros-Pasadas and Erlinda Lavandia missed a chance to compete in the biennial World Masters in Roccione, Italy, after failing to get their visas from the Italian Embassy.

The sad episode left Lavandia, the former Southeast Asian Games javelin champion, in tears.

"We prepared eight months for this, training every day," said the 55-year-old Lavandia, the two-time defending champion in the 50-60 age bracket.

Lavandia said they applied for visa on Aug. 21 only to be told a week later that they need to secure an invitation



(2003 in Puerto Rico and 2005 in Spain).

"In the end, we lost without putting up a fight."

The World Masters started Sept. 4 and will end on Sept. 15.

Pasadas was slated to vie for the heptathlon and hurdles titles, along with sprints legends Mona Sulaiman and pole vault Emerson Omena.

Lavandia said they applied for visa on Aug. 21 only to be told a week later that they need to secure an invitation

from the Italian Olympic Committee.

"That was only two days before our flight (Aug. 31)," said Lavandia.

The group sought the assistance of both the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee to no avail.

Lavandia said that, contrary to the Italian Embassy's information, the Italian Olympic Committee does not have anything to do with the World Masters, a competition among athletics greats 35 years and older for women, and 40 and older for men.

"It's painful for us because we prepared for it like we were still in the national team," said Lavandia. "It's sad because we lost only because we don't have a visa."

De Leon itching for Peñalosa rematch

MEXICAN DANIEL PONCE DE LEON wants a rematch with Gerry Peñalosa to prove his previous win over the Filipino world champion was no fluke.

In an interview with Boxingtalk.com, De Leon said he could beat Peñalosa anywhere.

"It wouldn't matter—USA, Mexico,

Philippines," De Leon said. "I am confident of beating Peñalosa anywhere."

De Leon retained his WBO bantamweight title at the same card with a 7th-round knockout of Jhony Gonzalez, said he also wants to avenge his loss to De Leon.

The Mexican pulled off a sensational first-round knockout of Ray "Boom Boom" Bautista in last month's World

Cup in Sacramento, California.

Peñalosa, who won the WBO bantam title at the same card with a 7th-round knockout of Jhony Gonzalez, said he also wants to avenge his loss to De Leon.

"I know he is bigger than me, but I want to fight him again," said Peñalosa. Solven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

PSC official Montemayor on way out?

By June Navarro

LEON MONTEMAYOR IS ON HIS WAY out as commissioner of the Philippine Sports Commission.

A reliable PSC source yesterday said President Macapagal-Arroyo has accepted the courtesy resignation of Montemayor or in line with a Malacafang plan to re-vamp the government sports agency.

The source added that the services of another commissioner would be terminated. He declined to name the official.

Montemayor is in charge of the PSC's grassroots development program.

The other commissioners are Ambrosio De Luna, Joey Mundo and Ritchie Garcia, who also served as commissioner during President Estrada's term and was re-appointed in 2005 along with Mundo.

PSC chief William "Butch" Ramirez also started as commissioner in 2001 before being appointed chair in 2005.

Ramirez did not confirm or deny the acceptance of Montemayor's resignation.

All PSC officials tendered courtesy resignations following a recent decision by the President to review the performance of government officials.

Blue Eagles overwhelm Maroons

From page A29

bility," said coach Joe Lipa, noting that he remains aware of calls for his ouster as early as the Maroons' second loss. "We are just playing bad and we are losing bad."

"I heard that a lot of people are asking for my head," added Lipa, who had a "handshake agreement" to mentor the Maroons until 2008. "When I decided to coach UP again, I have in my heart the interest and what's good for the university."

In the second game, the National University Bulldogs kept their slim semi-final hopes alive with a 68-57 triumph over the Adamson Falcons

The scores:
First Game

ATENEO 83—Samarat 16
Arap 13, Bacao 10, Monot 10,
Ling 9, Latumb 7, Ali-Hussaini 6

Tiu 5, Baldos 4, Escuter 4,
Sumaleng 3, Reyes 3, Barracoso 1, Nicanor 0.

JP 59—Rivera 9, Reyes 8,
Marlon 7, Lopez 7, Gamba 7

Sison 6, De Asis 6, Dela Victoria

3, Abayan 3, Espan 2, Series 1

Wong 0, Co 0, Hipolito 0

Duanens, 21-21, 40-34, 64-

42, 93-59.

Second Game

NU 68—Lingao-Lingao 13,
Fernandez 13, Asoro 13, Garcia

10, Luy 3, Mataguiflo 3, Jahnke

3, Aquilar 2, Galapon 2, Salvado

2, Catamora 2, Ponterada 1

Dea Cruz 1, Bakaran 0.

ADAMSON 67—Cabahug

18, Colina 12, Caniday 12

Huguitan 6, Caffada 4, Gorospe

3, Alvarez 2, Gonzaga 2, Olisa

0, Margalo 0, Yambol 0.

Quarters: 19-12, 23-27, 47-

40, 68-57.

STANDINGS W L

UE 12 0

La Salle 9 3

Ateneo 8 4

Santo Tomas 7 5

Far Eastern 6 6

National 5 7

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2 p.m.—UP vs UE

4 p.m.—National vs Far Eastern

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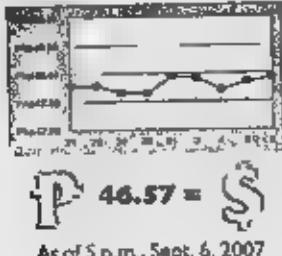
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US crisis seen lifting bonds, stunting stocks

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Visiting Lehman execs warn of worsening credit crunch

By Doris C. Dumao

THE WORLD IS NOT LIKELY TO SEE THE END OF THE US housing slump any time soon, and this could cause spell disaster for stocks but open up some opportunities in bond markets, visiting officials of leading US investment bank Lehman Brothers said.

"I think the housing issue will be here for several years in the US and that could lead to lower growth in the US. I will be more concerned with the equities markets than the bond markets," said Paul Kan, senior vice president at Lehman handling mortgage-backed securities trading.

"I would think if the macroe-

conomic environment is not liquid in the US, it will probably be a good time to be in bonds where you're maximizing the spread," Kan said Wednesday night at a forum with the Foundation for Economic Freedom.

In his presentation on the subprime crisis, Kan said the bottom of the US

US CRISIS/B2

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A little surprise in your electric bills

SOON WE MAY ALL SUFFER THE pain from that price fixing at the WESM.

That's the "wholesale electricity spot market," our version of the bidding-type free market for power, which caught the headlines last year due to a scandal over alleged price manipulation.

Now word is out that we may soon see an increase of about P2 per kWh in our electric bills.

It is the result of the WESM price-fixing charges last year.

At that time, Napocor president Cyril del Callar was caught with a compromising letter to PSALM Corp., "urging" (Del Callar's word) it to meet with Napocor on the prices they would offer in the WESM.

Business cried foul, noting that it was out-and-out price manipulation.

In no time, indeed, prices at the

WESM went from P2.88 to P6.88 per kWh, for a more than double P4 per kWh increase.

After an investigation, the Energy Regulatory Commission concluded that Del Callar's letter was... well, "inappropriate."

And that was it, folks! For something as hideous as "price manipulation," that was what Del Callar got—an empty word!

Of course the ERC warned Del Callar and Napocor about doing such things in the future.

Still, it was all just a soft slap in the wrist. Look, ma, Del Callar is still Napocor president!

And so now, about a year later after the, er, "inappropriate" price manipulation at the WESM, we all must bear the brunt with that P2 per kWh increase in our electric bills.

BREAKTIME

Conrado R.
Banal III



Somebody else did wrong; we endure the punishment. Nice! ***

Sounding the alarm on the impending power rate increase was actually Budkun Rep. Teofisto Guingona III.

By the way, Guingona also said that what Del Callar and company did, well, actually was a crime.

Do I take it that, under this administration, crime does pay?

Anyway, on top of the forthcoming P2 per kWh increase due to the WESM price fixing last year, Napocor is asking the ERC for a 74-centavo per kWh increase next month.

As reason, Napocor said something about "deferred forex accounting adjustments." Or it could be "some living things under the earth;" I am not sure.

Guingona estimates that Napocor stands to collect some P9 billion more due to the price-fixing bonanza from last year.

Thus, he said that the ERC should reject the petition for the rate increase from the power-generating companies that were involved in the WESM price manipulation.

They were all state-owned of course.

It only highlights the real problem in the power sector,

which is none other than the monopoly Napocor, still controlling some 80 percent of the country's power generating capacity.

That's why the law known as Epira wants Napocor to loosen its choke on the power sector by selling its plants and retaining, at most, 30 percent of the country's total capacity.

But Napocor wants Epira to go to hell. The Napocor mafia is working hard to amend the law. They are getting support from the Lola at the Palace.

Meantime, our electricity bills keep on rising. Sweet! ***

And since that's how they behave upstairs in the power sector, we cannot expect any less from the people downstairs.

For instance, there seems to be trouble in the country's biggest electric coop, the Batangas II Electric Cooperative, or Batelec II, covering some 15 municipalities and two cities in the province, with monthly sales of P340 million.

It is a P75-million trouble, at that!

This newspaper reported that customers of Batelec II (covering Lipa and Tanauan) are complaining about its P75-million deal with a little company known as "I-solv" for the co-op's computerization.

Really, what business does an electric co-op have spending P76 million for computers? It is first and foremost into the distribution business—not rocket science.

Anyway, our report said that the president of the Batelec II board at the time of the P75-million computer deal was Reynaldo Panaligan, a newsman who covers the "justice beat" for the Manila Bulletin.

The new board, installed by the Na-

tional Electrification Authority, or NEA, to replace the Panaligan group, now wants to recover P75 million from I-solv.

Or at least part of it!

From what I gathered, the co-op members, who are also the customers, voted to replace the Panaligan group after the NEA did an audit of the computer deal.

In that audit, NEA discovered the basis for charging the Panaligan group with gross mismanagement and corruption.

After the Panaligan group resorted to due process of reconsideration and all that, NEA still did not change its decision.

And so the group went to the Court Appeals. In three CA divisions, one after the other, the group contested the NEA decision. All the three CA divisions, one after the other, agreed with NEA. Again—that's three times!

As if to get away from the NEA, the Panaligan group then registered Batelec II with the Cooperative Development Authority.

It also went to the Supreme Court en banc, asking for "status quo" in the co-op, which the Supreme Court en banc granted.

To enforce the "status quo," the Supreme Court supposedly gave orders to the PNP chief, the AFP chief, and the NBI director.

All that for an electric co-op! How special could it be, really?

And so the NEA-installed new board filed cases of estafa against the old board.

Lo and behold, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales appointed DOJ state prosecutors to take over the case, thus sweeping aside the city prosecutors in Lipa and Tanauan.

For those particular cases only!

US crisis seen lifting bonds, stunting stocks

From page B1

housing market might not be here yet, warning of more defaults and foreclosures to come.

The credit crunch in the US is caused by rising delinquencies in subprime mortgages or housing loans made to borrowers with imperfect or limited credit histories and little equity. The ripples have spread across the globe as western banks took big hits from structured financial products with underlying assets invested in these sub-prime mortgages.

Ace Mikajiri, Lehman vice president, added that the global turmoil could widen Philippine credit spreads, which means investors will demand a higher premium for holding on to these sovereign debt papers.

"It's no secret that the credit market is still pretty tight so the potential for it to widen is reasonable but I don't think it will be a direct result

of a direct sale," Mikajiri said.

In the US, Kan explained that banks would now tighten loan underwriting criteria, which in turn could depress volumes by 15 percent.

"With the size of the mortgage market, expect negative headlines to continue," Kan said.

Apart from the subprime mortgage market, Kan also noted signs of credit deterioration in the next riskiest mortgage market, the so-called alternative-A or "Alt-A."

An "Alt-A" mortgage is a loan to a rated-A borrower but there may be some underwriting standard that the borrower failed, such as incomplete documentation.

But he noted that the worsening subprime delinquencies was almost seven times worse than Alt-A backed credit.

About 80 percent of the risk in the system was held by banks and non-agency dealers.

"Losses will be sizeable and

spread out but could increase with refinancing troubles," Kan said.

As such, he noted that all eyes now were on the US Federal Reserve and the macroeconomic effects.

"The market is now pricing a two-thirds chance of a rate cut by the end of the year. Fed appears to be moving to increase liquidity of the system, without lowering Fed Funds (rate)," he said.

To calm the global financial market turmoil arising from huge losses on subprime mortgages, the US central bank last month lowered its key discount rate by half a percentage point to 5.75 percent. kept its Fed Funds rate, the more significant interest rate benchmark, at 5.25 percent.

The Fed Funds rate sets the benchmark that banks use for short-term loans from one another while the discount rate covers only the rate at which the Fed lends out to banks.

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From page B1

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Still says Metrobank will launch this month the Metrobank Exclusive, a wealth management program that provides one-to-one financial service that is essential to high net individuals. The program addresses the needs of affluent individuals and their families in a personalized and specialized manner.

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Fernando Antonio Tansingco, head of Treasury Group says Metrobank's product portfolio is client oriented and client driven. The client is at the heart of Metrobank's motivation to push the boundaries of investment opportunities to provide results and returns.

"Alongside the growth of the Philippine economy, Metrobank is maximizing opportunities in the market right now, resulting in rising transaction volumes and happy investors," says Tansingco.

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Making dreams come true for the OFWs

For a better life for their families here, the overseas Filipinos work hard in foreign homes, factories and offices, to support loved ones left behind - wife, husband, parent, and children. The OFW segment, every single individual of them found in every corner of the world deserves more than just being labeled the new heroes of the country.

Metrobank recognizes the struggle and hard work of the OFWs in making their families realize dreams and acquire better lives by continually expanding its services abroad to cater to the burgeoning needs of the



Republic of the Philippines
Securities and Exchange Commission
SEC Building, Englis Guadalupe
V. Rama Avenue, Cebu City



INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Securities and Exchange Commission, Cebu Extension Office, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Project : Repair/Restoration of the SEC Cebu Extension Office Building
Location : SEC Bldg., V. Rama Avenue, Englis Guadalupe, Cebu City
Brief Description : General Repairs of ground, second, third, fourth & roof deck
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P 5,559,408.00

Contract duration : 150 calendar days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	September 8 to 14, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	September 15 to 22, 2007
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	September 20 to 29, 2007
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	October 8, 2007
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 9 to 17, 2007
6. Pre-Bid Conference	October 31, 2007
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	November 12, 2007

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at SEC, Cebu Extension Office upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P 1,500.00 to the Securities and Exchange Commission's Cashier. Prospective Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P 1,500.00 to the Securities and Exchange Commission's Cashier.

The SEC, Cebu Extension Office assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved By:
(Sgd.) Lorna N. Flick-Cubero
SEC Chairman

(PDI - Aug. 31 & Sept. 7, 2007)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Biliran Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BILECO) invites interested parties who are qualified to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following schedules of Capital Projects with an Approved

- a. Supply, Installation, Testing, and Commissioning of 5 mVA Power Transformer, Biliran Sub-Station PeP P 20,000,000.00
- b. Supply, Installation, Testing, and Commissioning of 69 kV Power Circuit Breaker and Control System of 3.15 mVA Power Transformer, Biliran Sub-Station PeP 3,700,000.00
- c. Site Development of 5 mVA Power Substation and Area Office in Biliran, Biliran PeP 2,100,000.00

The above stated Capital Projects shall be contracted on a design and build scheme with financing.

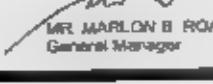
Pre-Eligibility Conference is scheduled on September 25, 2007 / 10:00 a.m. at BILECO MPB, CarayCaray, Naval, Biliran. Invitation of Eligibility Documents will be on September 26-28, 2007. Deadline for the submission of Application for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements) shall be on October 2, 2007 10:00 a.m. at the Office of the Bids and Award Committee, Biliran Electric Cooperative, Inc. CarayCaray, Naval, Biliran. Bid documents shall be issued only to eligible Bidder on October 4-5, 2007 upon payment of non-refundable fee of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (PeP 15,000.00) at the Secretariat of Bids and Awards Committee (BAC). Pre-Bid Conference will be held at BILECO MPB, CarayCaray, Naval, Biliran on October 6, 2007, 10:00 a.m. Bid Opening will be conducted on October 22, 2007 / 10:00 a.m. at Martin James Seaside Inn Conference Hall, Brgy. Apolo, Naval, Biliran.

Eligibility and bid documents of Bidder shall be evaluated using a non-discretionary "PASS/FAIL" criteria. All particulars relative to the eligibility tendering, competitive bidding and award of Contract shall be in accordance with BILECO Policy No. 98-13 as amended. All proposals shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the Bidder's offer to the Contract put out to bid and shall be subject to Post qualification before an award is made.

BILECO reserves the right to reject any application for eligibility and any or all proposals declare a failure of bidding and to waive any required formalities thereto, and/or to make an award to Bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the electric cooperative.

A letter expressing the intent of the Bidder to apply for eligibility and to bid must be submitted to the Bids and Awards Committee prior to purchase of Eligibility Documents. All communications shall be addressed to the undersigned on the above address with telephone number (053) 500-8744 and facsimile number (053) 500-8744.


ARMANDO P. ROMERO, M.E.
Chairman
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Note:

MR. MARLON B. ROA
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Manila Peñafrancia festivities

THE PEÑAFRANCIA DEVOTEES ASSOCIATION invites everyone to the triodium of Masses and Novena to the Virgin of Peñafrancia, at the St. Andrew the Apostle Parish Church, N. Garcia (Reposo St.), Bel-Air, Makati City on Sept. 6 and 7 at 6 p.m. and Sept. 8, 5 p.m.

On Sunday, a Peñafrancia Fluvial Procession along the Pasig River will start from the Makati Parks and Garden at Guadalupe and going all the way to the Escolta Ferry Landing at the foot of Jones Bridge. The Image of "INA" will be carried by a barge and accompanied by 200 male devotees.

From Escolta, the Image of "INA" will be carried by volunteer female devotees on foot to the Manila Cathedral. A Solemn Concelebrated High Mass will highlight the celebration at the Manila Cathedral at 6:00 p.m., on September 9, 2007.

For further inquiries, call our Secretariat, at Tel. Nos. 531 5177, 531-8797, 531-6158 or 531-9430.

OBITUARIES



ROSALINA BUHAIN NAVARRO

September 4, 1917 – September 4, 2007

It is with great sadness & loss to announce the death of our beloved mother (CHALING) after a lengthy stay at St. Dominic Medical Center, Inc. She was predeceased by her husband POE NAVARRO and grandchildren Noel Munson, Wyona & Nerissa Blas. She is survived by her loving children Mary, Tessie (Ramon) Kasilag, Lourdes (Benny) Munson, Susan (Arnaldo) Bias, Rudolfo (Lily), Angelito (Teslie/Beng), Apollo (Fe), Robin (Litz) & Norma (Jack) Boeckler, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, sisters Elisa Parungao, Patricia (Renato) Custodio, sister-in-law Amparo Buhain, brothers-in-law Angel Sumillano & Tomas Cubi.

She served as Public School Teacher, Guidance Counselor and Principal. She retired as District Supervisor of Bacoor I and II.

After retirement, she was the President of Bacoor Retirees & Friends.

She was a very devoted mother to her family.

Her remains lie in state at LA BIEN MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC. (Gen. Aguinaldo Chapel) Mahiki II, Bacoor, Cavite

Her interment will take place on Sunday, September 9, 2007 at Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat Rd., Parañaque City

Funeral procession will start at 12:00 nn. The Funeral Mass will be officiated by the Most Reverend Theodooro Buhain Jr., D.D. at 1:30 p.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Parish Church.

Lt. Col. (Ret) Filemon "Titong" Hequibal Guerrero, Jr.

At the age of 93, he was called home to Heaven on the 1st of September 2007 in Glendale, California, USA after a short illness.

Born in Sibulan, Sorsogon, he has served the Philippine Military, Quarter Master General for 37 years. Immigrated in US in 1980, his wife, the former Romana Raymundo Bautista preceded him in death in 1992.

He is survived by his 5 children, all from California, USA. J Natalia (†Toli Batac) of Los Angeles, Raul (Cora Dyka) of Eagle Rock, Raquel (Allen Rose) of Tujunga, Maribel Carandang & Joel both of Eagle Rock, 11 grandchildren, Pinky of L.A., Rommel (Ching) & Richard (Aimee) Batac of L.A. Jennifer (Andy), Christopher and Sherylyn Guerrero of Glendale, Vanessa Martires of Manhuatan Beach & Edelynn Martires of Tujunga, Cezar (Tina) & Alex (Gel) Carandang of San Diego & Raffy Guerrero of Riverside, 9 great-grandchildren Jhanelle & Shenelyn Gregorio, Andrei & Angelo Batac, Christina, Celine & Nathan Carandang, Lance Batac & Kailee Martires-Sabangan of Tujunga, sisters Milagros & Feves and brothers Antonio & Danilo.

He will be missed by those who knew him as a loving and thoughtful man.

Rosary hour will be held on the vigil night and the Burial Mass followed by a military funeral in Glendale, California, U.S.A. at 9 am, September 6, 2007

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Mama Ambel ISABEL RUBIO ALCASID

(July 8, 1916 – September 4, 2007)

"My spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour"

Her bereaved husband, Col. Domingo A. Alcasid (Ret.), daughter Mila and son-in-law Gen. Patrocinio Marcos (Ret.), sons and daughters-in-law Larry & Judith, Maj. Gen. Reynaldo Alcasid (Ret.) & Mina, Robert, grandchildren, Patrick, Jeff, Sheila, Nick, Mee, Karl, Rina, Sol, Mike, Larse, Bobbie and Mark, great-grandchildren, Yaya Rose & Beng, relatives and friends, request readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel & Crematorium, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be at Heritage Memorial Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City on Wednesday, September 12, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.

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"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

20 minutes 52

BCDA looking for temporary operator of SCTEx

Agency to talk with 3 groups vying for short-term contract

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT Authority said it was preparing to negotiate with a possible "interim operator" of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway after competitive bidding for a 10-year contract failed twice.

Narciso L. Abaya, BCDA president and chief executive, told reporters the interim contract would be for six months up to a year.

"We would negotiate soon because we expect to open Package 2 of the SCTEx within the year," Abaya said.

He was referring to the 43.27-kilometer Clark-Tarla leg—a four-lane asphalt overlay that would cut travel time from about two hours to about 20 minutes.

The 50-km Subic-Clark section, which is expected to cut travel time from two hours to a half-hour, will be opened next year.

Abaya added that, following government policies, BCDA would be negotiating with at least three potential temporary operators.

"BCDA would conduct a third bidding for the long-term contract," he said. "We need to get the SCTEx operating as smoothly as possible because we need it to accommodate growing traffic in Central Luzon."

However, construction work continued to be hounded by delays as the Japanese contractors have asked for extension of deadlines for the completion of both sections.

Package 2 is supposed to be finished by October. But contractor Hazama-Taisei-Nippon Steel (HTN) Joint Venture is asking for a second extension of 54 days. This section was originally supposed to be finished by August 2007.

Abaya said BCDA has so far not agreed on a second extension of delivery time.

As for Package 1, contractor Kajima-Obayashi-JFE Engineering-Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Joint Venture (KOJM-JV) has asked for a four-month extension, which means that the section would be completed by March 2008.

Abaya said the second bidding for the 10-year contract failed because the two bidders asked for prices that were above the set ceiling.

BCDA had set a ceiling bid of a 12.2-percent operator's share of toll fees collected within the 10-year contract period.

BCDA bankrolled the construction of the project through a P21-billion loan from the government of Japan through the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

GOINGS-ON

Asian Spirit offers P18 flights

Asian Spirit offers P18++ flights to all local destinations in support of the 18th Philippine Travel Mart (PTM) slated at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall on Sept. 7-9, 2007.

The P18++ fare is for one-way domestic flights of Asian Spirit and is exclusive of taxes.

This low rate is valid for travel from Sept. 8 to Oct. 15, 2007 and is only available for booking and buying on-site at booths 2 & 3 of Asian Spirit during the PTM.

"Everyone is advised to book and buy early because of the expected influx of those wanting to avail themselves of this rare treat," said Paul Sison, vice president of sales and marketing of Asian Spirit.

With the recent acquisition of 3 British Aerospace 146 Jet aircraft, the only jet to Cebu, the company is able to cut travel time and increase passenger comfort.

Media interface at Club Filipino

The coalition on Socially Responsible Small and Medium Enterprises in Asia (CSR-SME Asia) will conduct a forum at Club Filipino on Sept. 8, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Focusing on members of the fourth estate, CSR-SME Asia has invited print and broadcast journalists to attend the forum.

Manila Hotel president and former Sen. Jose Ina, who used to be a journalist himself before he entered politics, said it is about time members of the media get the help that they deserve, allowing them to improve their standard of living.

According to one study, 70 percent of journalists or writers in the country are paid just over the minimum wage—way below their counterparts in other Asian countries.

CSR-SME Asia aims to help journalists by providing them with loans that have lower rates of interest compared to banks and other lending institutions, said Ben Quinones, chairman CSR-SME Asia.

The event will be held at the UP Bahay Alumni in Diliman, Quezon City on Oct. 17.

Meat and fish seminar

Learn to process meat and fish and earn extra cash.

The Golden Treasure Skills Development Program will conduct a seminar on meat and fish processing on Sept. 8, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The one-day seminar will be held at Nestle Bldg., 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City.

Topics to be discussed are sourcing of materials and costing. For questions, please call 952-4028.

40 years on and still dishing out pleasures of travel

By Tina Arceo-Dundao

IT WAS THE JAPANESE WHO inspired former Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban to put up Baron Travel Corp.

Big travelers that they are, the Japanese have been coming to the Philippines in droves to enjoy the sunny weather, hit the beach or play a nice round of golf.

Thinking that the Philippines would continue to attract visitors from Asia's largest economy, Panganiban invested in Baron in 1967 to get a slice of the inbound market and earn from tourists coming to the country.

Panganiban was also encouraged in part by a vow he made to himself when he had to give up a scholarship to Yale because he had no money to fly there. He made sure that his children would not have any problem flying.

Exactly 40 years later today, Baron has grown from a seven-man operation in a small office on Padre Faura in Manila into one of the country's largest travel agencies that services not just the Japanese, but tourists and corporate travelers from all over the world.

The road to prosperity, however, was far from smooth.

Baron president and CEO Marilen P. Sandejas-Yaptangco tells the Inquirer that, true to the nature of the volatile tourism industry, Baron has gone through many peaks and valleys over the past 40 years.

Yaptangco, eldest of Panganiban's five children, relates how the travel industry is very sensitive to political and economic turmoil. The mere hint of trouble scares away visitors, as seen during periods of political upheaval.

That happened when Martial Law was declared in 1972, when Senator Benigno Aquino was assassinated in 1983, and when the masses held the People Power uprising in 1986. That same year, Yaptangco was asked by her father to help him run the company.

She admits that, during her early years, she was just enjoying herself seeing the beauty of the Philippines and the top tourist destinations in the world while learning how to run the travel agency.

"For the first three years, I was having the time of my life," Yaptangco says. "I went all over the world and all over the country. I was single and I did not need to handle any of the financials."

At the time she joined, Baron has expanded into the inbound and outbound tourism market with 150 employees. Her father was still leading the charge at the same time he was building a formidable law practice.

Little did Yaptangco know then that she would be put to tests more difficult than what her father went through.

For one, Yaptangco had to bear the death of a husband in 1992 after just four years of marriage, leaving her with a young son.

When she remarried in 1995, she found herself alone handling the reins of Baron because her father was named to the Supreme Court. Thus, he had to leave the company in her young hands.

"My life changed because suddenly I couldn't rely on him totally anymore," she says. "He was so busy and I was really on my own ... I really had big shoes to fill."

Yaptangco proved up to the challenge.

She learned about it during a travel exhibit in Germany and excitedly told her father about it when she came back to the Philippines.

While he did not share her enthusiasm at the start, he supported her decision for Baron to become the local agent of the Royal Caribbean Cruises at a time when the concept of cruising was still alien in Asia.

That proved to be a timely decision because cruise vacations came into vogue and the revenues there partly made up for the cut in airline ticket commissions.

Then, as fate would have it, Baron and the rest of the travel industry found itself in one crisis after another—the Sept. 11, 2001 bombing of the World Trade Center, the 2003 SARS epidemic in Asia, and the bird flu outbreak—that kept many travelers in their homes and firmly away from the tourist scene.

That was a deep hole that the entire industry fell into, we were lucky to manage to crawl out of it," adds Yaptangco, who admits her management skills were truly put to the test.

She describes those days as "the worst" in her history.

At that time, long-haul travel disappeared from the market. The industry just relied on the few regional and corporate travels who braved the industry turbulence. The sudden drop in business took its toll on travel companies, even one as large as Baron.

Yaptangco says she had to go to the extreme of letting go of 30 percent of the workforce in two tranches because there was just not enough business



YAPTANGCO

coming in to pay the salaries. She merged divisions, closed some offices and cut costs to the bone.

But it was because Baron became a lean and mean travel agency that it managed to survive the crises.

"I just prayed a lot and hoped that the industry will hold together," Yaptangco says. "I just kept on believing in the country."

She also put a little more faith in herself and in Baron's signature service, which made it a force to reckon with in the industry. That is one reason why Baron emerged from its challenges better than ever.

Yaptangco is not about to stop doing more for Baron.

"I believe that my mission is to take Baron where I think my Dad would take it," she says.

So far, so good.

A Growing Culture of Impunity

We are appalled that the culture of impunity among certain government officials appears to have spread to an extent exceeding that of all past administrations. This impunity seems also increasingly evident in many agencies of government.

A glaring example is that of COMELEC Chairman Benjamin Abalos who had no business in allowing himself to be entertained by officials of ZTE Corporation, a potential contractor of the Republic, particularly considering he had an important electoral exercise to administer. His indiscreet conduct and absence from his official duties could only have happened if he believed he was immune from sanctions. We therefore reiterate our call for Chairman Abalos to resign.

Dept. of Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza needs to think very carefully about the charges leveled against him by Congressman Carlos Padilla. Like other questionable projects, the ZTE deal will be rejected by the court of public opinion and, sooner or later, evaluated and ruled on by our own independent courts of law. Sec. Mendoza should prove his worth and rescind it now.

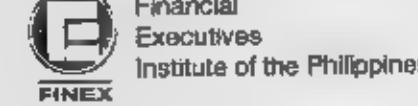
Should he choose not to do these, we would support a full investigation by the Senate of this highly questionable project given the huge expenditure of public funds involved.

We also demand that the government publicly release a copy of the contract as mandated by Article III, Sec. 7 of our Constitution which states that "*The right of the people to information on matters of public concern shall be recognized.*"

The secrecy about this project, despite repeated demands by the public, is contrary to the principle avowed by this Administration for complete transparency in matters of public interest and to the provisions of Republic Act 7925 which emphasizes that "*public telecommunications services shall be provided by private enterprises.*"

We are heartened by the courage of journalists and fiscalizers who bring to light the anomalous activities of public officials who believe they are protected by their position. We join them and encourage others in expressing public outrage at these questionable acts and the growing culture of political impunity.

We call on President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to heed our pleas and take immediate action to rectify blatant wrongdoings of public officials, lest she be accused of condoning them.



Petron, WWF seal pioneering strategic agreement to conserve Tubbataha Reef & the greater Sulu Sea

The country's leading oil refining and marketing company Petron Corporation recently signed a strategic agreement with the World Wide Fund (WWF) to further expand conservation efforts in the greater Sulu Sea, particularly in Tubbataha Reef—Southeast Asia's only UNESCO World Heritage Site. Petron will be committing up to P50-million over the next five years to fund programs aimed at improving livelihood, food security and sustainable natural resource management in the municipality of Cagayancillo which has jurisdiction over the reef.

"The sustainability and success of our business hinges on our actions as a responsible leader in every aspect of our business especially in the area of corporate citizenship," Chairman and CEO Nicasio I. Alcantara said. "This partnership with WWF will allow us to support livelihood programs that would improve the incomes of Cagayancillo residents and give them skills essential for the preservation of Tubbataha Reef."

The Petron-WWF partnership has two major components. One component establishes and expands marine-based livelihood opportunities for Cagayancillo residents. A second component provides the opportunity to build the skills of island residents and deserving college graduates from different academic institutions, to manage marine resources

through an annual summer hands-on learning program. Additionally, this serves as a means to promote stronger ties among academic institutions, scientific and technical experts, industry partners, NGOs, and local government units.

"Petron's decision to make a meaningful investment to conserve and effectively manage Tubbataha Reef Southeast Asia's only UNESCO marine world heritage site represents a significant private sector commitment to the people of Palawan, and to the Philippine environment in general," WWF-Philippines Vice Chairman Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan said. "In light of the environmental challenges that face our country, private sector investments, in WWF's view, can provide the much needed impetus, and make all the difference in people's lives."

In partnership with stakeholders from Palawan and the national government, WWF has been playing an active role in managing the Tubbataha Reef over the past ten years. Its involvement includes the mobilization of resources to support the management and protection of marine biodiversity, enforcement efforts, the maintenance of high standards of biological research (e.g. corals, fish, seabirds) and thorough documentation of results—a requirement for sound management.

WWF-Philippines has been able to build and innovate on approaches to remain at the cutting edge of conservation work.

"The program represents Petron's long-term pledge to help restore the health and productivity of Philippine seas and ramp up both the social and economic gains for coastal communities," Nicasio I. Alcantara added. "The preservation of Tubbataha is essential to achieve food security for thousands of fisherfolk who depend on the bounty of the Sulu Sea."

Tubbataha reefs contribute immensely to the viability of coastal fisheries and food security. It has been scientifically-established that the currents within the Sulu Sea transport large quantities of larvae from Tubbataha and Cagayancillo, towards the east coast of mainland Palawan, where they seed hundreds of kilometers of coastal reefs in one of the country's most productive fishing grounds.

Researchers have recorded 396 species of corals—85 percent of all hard coral species in the entire Philippines. There are 479 species of fish from 46 families. Manta rays are frequent visitors to the reef as are barracudas and large schools of jacks. Tubbataha is also home to six species of sharks—usually found cruising around the outskirts of the reef. There are two types of sea turtles and nine species of marine mammals found in these reefs. The diversity of marine life found in Tubbataha is equal to or greater than any such reef of its size in the world.



PRESERVING A NATIONAL TREASURE

Petron Chairman and CEO Nicasio I. Alcantara (3rd from L) signed a memorandum of agreement with WWF-Philippines Chairman Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala to form a strategic partnership between Petron and WWF to preserve Tubbataha Reef—considered one of the richest marine ecosystems in the world. Also in the picture are former Petron President Khalid Al-Faddagh and WWF-Philippines Vice Chairman Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan.



STAUNCH SUPPORT

Petron Foundation Incorporated (PFI) Board of Trustees were in full force to support the strategic agreement with WWF to preserve Tubbataha Reef. In the picture are Petron officials (standing L to R) Corporate Secretary Luis Maglaya, Controller Dettie de Claro, VP-Finance Antonio Pelayo, VP-Legal Affairs Jose Laurel, VP-Corporate Planning Sulaiman Ababtai, VP-Marketing Joey Campos, VP-Supply and Operations Mon Antiporda and PFI Executive Director Malu Erni. Also in the picture are (sitting L to R) former Petron President Khalid Al-Faddagh, WWF-Philippines Chairman Augusto Jaime Zobel de Ayala, Petron Chairman Nicasio Alcantara and WWF-Philippines Vice Chairman Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan.



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bio-di-vers-i-ty // 1. The harmonious coexistence among the 79 species of algae, 10 species of seagrass, 7 species of seabirds, 6 species of whale sharks and dolphins, 2 species of marine turtles and some 6,340 townsfolk in Tubbataha. This is what Petron is helping to maintain. A marine park beyond compare, the Tubbataha Reef is located in the municipality of Cagayancillo, Palawan. Right at the heart of the Sulu Sea, it stands out as the only UNESCO World Heritage Site in the West Philippine Sea and is recognized as one of the country's best-managed protected areas.

Petron and WWF, the global conservation organization, are helping in the conservation and protection of this unique national treasure. Through the comprehensive program "LIFE and Livelihoods: Sustaining Tubbataha and Sulu Sea", residents of Cagayancillo are learning the necessary skills to better manage their rich coastal and marine resources. This partnership is helping conserve Tubbataha Reef to benefit thousands of residents and the generations to come. From the introduction of environment-friendly products to the preservation of marine resources, Petron continues to do its share of *Giving Back*.



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'Sweet spot' in a backpack

Skip Yowell, one of the founders of Jansport bags, finds passion and work fulfillment outside his office

By Tina Arceo-Dumiao

AT FIRST GLANCE, SKIP YOWELL LOOKS like an American still very much hung up on the 1960s, with his loose tie-dyed shirt, worn pair of jeans and beads and friendship bands around the wrist.

But to dismiss the Kansas native as just another aging hippie will be catastrophic as the 60-year-old Yowell knows more about running a successful business and living life to the full than the average CEO in a designer suit ensconced in his expensive corner office.

Yowell, after all, is one of the three original founders of Jansport, one of the world's biggest bag brands.

He and his cousin Murray and his cousin's then girlfriend Jan—after whom the bag was named—made the company grow from a ragtag operation in an uncle's two-story transmission shop into a global company that produces millions of backpacks built for the wear and tear of enjoying the outdoors.

Global ambassador

Jansport is celebrating its 40th year of production this year and although Yowell and his cofounders have sold the company to a conglomerate, he still holds the title of vice president of global public relations and the de facto global ambassador for the brand.

Life cannot be better for Yowell, who is literally still climbing mountains, the latest being Mt. Rainier in Washington.

And his kind of life is within everybody's



reach, Yowell said in an interview during his recent visit to the Philippines.

All that it takes, he said, is for a person working hard to build a career or business to find his "sweet spot" and find the courage to stop there.

"There is always pressure for us to go for more and more. But do career individuals really enjoy what they are doing?" he asked.

Extra luggage

On the other hand, if a person has found his passion, he explained, there is no need to work hard for more. Everything else becomes unimportant.

"This might be the most important lesson

of all: Quit climbing once you've found your sweet spot. Anything beyond that point is like lugging excess baggage," Yowell stressed.

"Many aspiring business-types strive to become the Top Dog, the Head Honcho, or the Big Cheese. There's nothing inherently wrong with that. But if in your pursuit of the corner office, you discover that your true passion lies midway up the corporate ladder, stop climbing and enjoy what you've found," he said.

In Yowell's case, for instance, he gave up on the numerous offers for him to head the company.

The pay and the perks were bigger and better, of course, but Yowell said taking on

the job would have meant he would no longer have as much time to go around the world to just talk about Jansport and the reasons why it is such a "fun" brand to build.

Instead, he would be stuck in the office taking care of details of running a global company.

Besides, he has always been an outdoors person and he wants to stay there as often as possible.

Sharing

He also spends a good part of his time these days sharing what he has learned about business and life in general to anyone

SWEET/B2-3



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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2007

Pinoys love to relax by watching TV

By Amy R. Remo

MORE FILIPINOS ARE TURNING TO free television as a main source of news, information and entertainment, a recent survey showed.

According to Synovate's Media Atlas survey, 92 percent of respondents from A, B, C and D classes have watched a free channel on television yesterday while only 41 percent have read a daily newspaper.

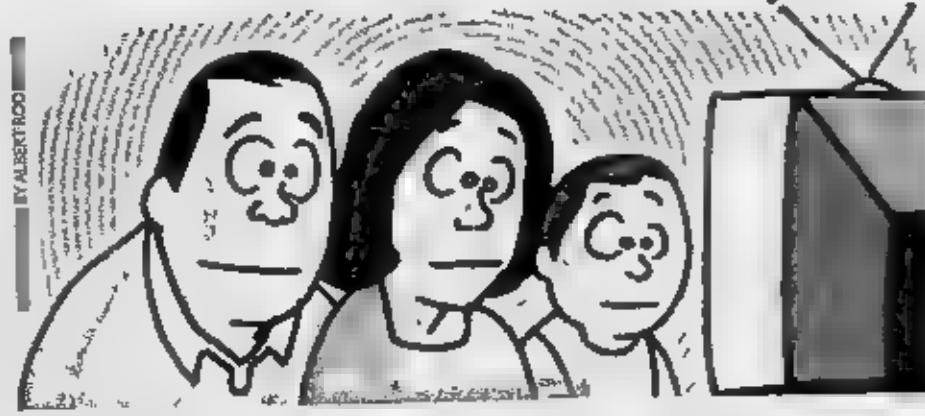
Only 46 percent had meanwhile watched a cable or satellite channel.

Watching television was found to be the most popular way for Filipinos to relax with 94 percent saying so, Synovate disclosed.

Other forms of relaxation include resting (89 percent), spending time with family (85 percent), listening to music (74 percent) and eating out, chatting with friends, listening to radio and shopping.

In the past seven days, only 43 percent have read a Sunday newspaper while 79 percent had listened to a radio station, according to the survey.

Synovate's first Media Atlas survey was conducted within the Metropolitan and Greater Manila areas, from



June 2006 to July 2007.

It primarily measures local print media habits, spending patterns, product ownership, lifestyle, attitudes and values, especially across the expanding upper income groups.

A sample of 2,538 respondents, living in the Greater Manila Area aged 15 to 64 years old were polled using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CatI) and face-to-face interviews.

CatI defines the media habits of upscale audience where telephone landline penetration is over 70 percent. This refers to socioeconomic classes A, B and C+.

Face-to-face approach was applied across all surveyed areas to pick up the classes broad C and D.

Synovate, however, did not provide reasons for preferences in network viewership, radio listenership and newspaper readership.

Favorite channels

Among the free channels, GMA 7 ranks highest with 89 percent from among A, B, C and D classes who said they have watched the local channel within the past seven days.

This was followed closely by ABS-CBN 2 at 83 percent, which is mean-

while the most preferred free channel among the affluent (AB classes).

QTV 11 ranks third among preferred free channels with 48 percent viewership.

For radio, 37 percent of respondents preferred listening to FM station DZMB Love Radio (90.7 MHz), followed closely by YES FM (101.1 MHz), which is preferred by 30 percent.

Among AM stations, 17 percent listened more to DZMM Radyo Patrol (630 KHz) while 13 percent preferred DZRH (666 KHz).

Broadsheet readership

For daily broadsheets, the Inquirer enjoys the top spot from Mondays to Saturdays with an average issue readership (AIR) of 614,631.

This was followed closely by Manila Bulletin with an AIR of 585,806 while Star ranked third with an AIR of 488,387.

AIR is defined as the number of readers who, on average, read a copy of a particular title.

On Sundays however, Manila Bulletin was seen to have the widest reach per issue with an AIR of about 1.19 million or a reach of 17 percent of the

sample polled.

Inquirer's Sunday edition follows with an AIR of 747,927 or an 11-percent reach while Star has a 9-percent reach with an AIR of 603,894.

Among the affluent (AB) which have household incomes of more than P50,000, 44 percent preferred the Inquirer, 38 percent read Manila Bulletin and 34 percent for Star.

Inquirer is also the most read paper among those who have cars, credit cards and other financial investments.

Among newspaper sections, the top three most important sections were front page, according to 61 percent of respondents; entertainment, 44 percent; and sports, 39 percent.

Notably however, Filipinos spend only a short time in reading a daily newspaper with 49 percent of respondents saying they read for less than 15 minutes, given today's increasingly fast-paced lifestyle.

About 30 percent said they spend 15 to 30 minutes in a day to read a newspaper.

The survey also showed that 63 percent of these respondents read at home while 24 percent read in either their office or school.

'Sweet spot' in a backpack

From page B2-2
body willing to lend an ear and listen with an open mind

The value of finding one's "sweet spot" is also contained in Yowell's book cum memoirs, "The Hippie Guide to Climbing the Corporate Ladder and Other Mountains," a fun and easy read that traces Jansport's growth and Yowell's thoughts on what really constitutes success.

For Yowell, there are measures of success other than reaching the top of a corporate ladder at the expense of others.

"To successfully ascend the ladder, you and I are told we must: Schmooze or lose, use or be used and fight to stay at the top. While I don't go out of my way to criticize folks who operate within such a self-limiting mind-set,

climbing the corporate ladder under those guidelines sure sounds like a downer," Yowell said.

Personal fulfillment

What Yowell puts forward as an alternative is for career and business types to take up a trade or a position that provides personal fulfillment, something "fun," so that the job is no longer just a job but something truly worthwhile doing.

"I guess it is because we at Jansport had so much fun with the business that it is now 40 years old. We have a team of people that I believe actually enjoy their work and understand how they work together better as a team," he said.

This camaraderie has allowed Jansport to evolve from its first line of

patented frame packs to the new lines that conform to the latest trends.

Jansport, for instance, was first in 1996 to produce backpacks that were compatible with the ubiquitous iPod and other digital music players.

The line called the LiveWire series include the Recourse, Audio Pack and the Alt Pack equipped with Bluetooth connectivity.

Yowell said he does not know if his business philosophy came about because he grew up in the "summer of love" in the late 1960s during which "fun" and "peace" were said more often than "career."

He, however, believes that the principles that Jansport first stood for in 1967 of "peace, love and profit" are very much applicable today, 40 years later, perhaps even more so.



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NYREE at one of her successful outlets



FRUITAS has become one of the fastest growing franchise businesses around.

Nyree Chan learns the best way to know consumers' wants is to man the business cart by herself



JACK'S Loft, The Block SM North EDSA

Jac

Youngest franchisee has eight outlets

ONE MIGHT SAY HER CORPORATE LIFE was nipped in the bud when Fruitas came with an opportunity for entrepreneurship.

And it didn't matter that she was young and had to get a business loan to be able to afford a franchise of one of the fastest growing franchise businesses around.

"I opened Fruitas and Buko ni Fruitas at SM Mall of Asia in May last year and I had no idea it was going to grow so fast," exclaimed Nyree Chan, one of the youngest Fruitas franchisees.

"Running a food stall business was something very new to me. After four years of working for a car distributor, a packing company and a call center, I am now blending fresh fruit shakes for people from all walks of life in the middle of the country's biggest mall," she says, smiling.

Nyree tells all this with nary a trace of regret in her voice even if it wasn't such a bed of roses during the first month of operations. For the crucial first 30 days, the export management graduate personally manned the cart.

Best experience

"The best experience for me because I saw the ins and outs of a cart business and I got an in-depth view of what people look for in terms of quality and service."

Nyree comes from a Filipino-Chinese family whose members are not afraid to get their hands dirty.

Her father saw that Nyree has an entrepreneurial streak and her track record of being responsible scored high with him. So with a little help from him and Lester Yu, the brains behind the Fruitas success, Nyree readily took on the entrepreneurial challenge.

"It helped that my father believed in me and that Lester was always on hand to listen, guide and give advice. It raised my level of confidence and I know that as long I keep on doing the right thing and be open to other people's ideas and suggestions I will soon be able to get another Fruitas franchise in less than a few months."

True enough, her second Fruitas and Buko ni Fruitas carts rolled in at SM Manila Supermarket, followed by Buko ni Fruitas at SM Megamall Food Court in barely a year. Business was booming and there was no way to go but forward for Nyree.

Strike while the iron's hot

As the age-old business adage goes, thus young woman is striking it while the iron is hot. The three franchise outlets were followed by a Juice Avenue kiosk at Glorietta 3, Buko ni Fruitas at Food Choices Glorietta 4, and two more Mango Farm carts at Robinsons Place Manila and SM Megamall Food Court.

"It's fortunate that Lester's operational support for his franchisees makes a lot of things easier for us. Every detail of the business is thought of and there is a system in place which enables franchisees like me to not worry about on-time deliveries and spoilage. He even comes to your rescue when a particular outlet needs onsite inspection. Truth is you can call Lester for just about anything. That is a comforting thought for us, franchisees," Nyree says.

And even if she had seven franchise stalls, Nyree keeps it simple—she has her office inside her bedroom and has 15 staff to help her with the day-to-day operations.

Despite her busy schedule, Nyree still finds time to do what every young people her age enjoys doing. "I still love watching movies with my fiancé and going out to dinner with our friends."

And somewhere in between the blockbuster movies, Nyree's eighth Fruitas franchise is already in the works.



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JACK'S
Loft
Entrance
In
Robinsons
Galleria

WHEN YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS
John Tian Seng and Erik Cua decided to put up Jack's Loft Dessert Bar in Eastwood City in 2001, they only wanted a place where they could unwind and have a nice cup of coffee and dessert, after tending to the branches of a Vietnamese noodle house.

Little did they know that, when they opened the bar, they would be reinventing the dessert café concept in the country.

"The idea of Jack's Loft originated from the house loft of our cousin-in-law Jack Johnston in Canada, where we would hang around to have good food and nice clean fun with friends," said Tian Seng, managing partner of the dessert bar. "So when we put up a restaurant in the Philippines, we decided to transplant the concept of the loft of Jack here."

Party concept

With the transplant of the tell-tale "loft" in Manila, they managed to duplicate the party concept, this time with more pomp and circumstance.

"We started with the traditional café concept with coffee and pastries, and light meals, and did not open until 6 p.m.," Tian Seng said. "But as patronage grew, we soon expanded our daily fare and operating hours."

They started with a handful of fusion food recipes, which they themselves developed, to cater initially to the younger set and the nocturnal crowd.

As its customers became more diverse in terms of age, Jack's Loft menu began to expand. It can now serve dozens of meals.

Current menu

Its current menu includes paninis (grilled Italian sandwiches), sandwiches and wraps, Indian-style butter chicken with rice, English shepherd's pie, and Hong Kong-style baked pork chop, pastas, risotti (Italian rice meals) and stir-fried rice.

For drinks, it has alcopops, liqueur, beer, fruit shakes, and its popular house blend, Jack's Ice Tea served in fish bowl.

Not to be missed is its signature Jack's cheesecake and a slew of other cakes which have made the restaurant a mecca for foodies with sweet tooth.

Designer stores

Aside from its unique fusion food and desserts, Jack's Loft is also reputed for coming up with designer stores which Tian Seng and Cua developed themselves, using the former's academic training in graphic design overseas.

Each outlet has a unique character, depending on the age group they cater to.

Its first store in Eastwood City is an imposing post-modern crimson red edifice.

In that nocturnal Libis colony, the store became a favorite haunt of yuppies and party-goers because of its relaxing interiors and comfy couches reminiscent of the house in Canada.

The second branch on Wilson Street, Greenhills has a more industrial look, while the third store at the Robinsons Galleria Mall provides diners with that "out-of-the-box" ambience.

The other half of the outlet is Pho Hoa Vietnamese noodle restaurant, while the outer rim has a Compass Internet station for netizens and online gaming addicts.

Wi-Fi enabled

The restaurant is Wi-Fi enabled. It also has an enclosed play pen for toddlers and children, allowing their parents to have a quiet dinner.

Its latest store at The Block of SM North Edsa in Quezon City is the simplest and most compact, but similarly cozy.

With its relaxing and welcoming ambience, customers are often tempted to tarry and hang around a little longer than usual while enjoying dessert and coffee.

As part of its continuing expansion, Jack's Loft will open at the Ayala Tri-Noma Mall and the new wing of Robinsons Place Manila this year.

"By venturing into the malls, we hope to capture the office crowd and a broader segment of the general public, which are beginning to appreciate a new cuisine and dining concept," Tian Seng says.

Asked on the secret of Jack's Loft's staying power, Tian Seng says, "good food, a lot of hard work, excellent location, a creative concept and a little stroke of luck."



Jack's Loft reinvents the dessert café



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People, Events & Products

SM celebrates Bulacan's Singkaban Fiesta

BULACAN'S BEAUTY AND craftsmanship takes center stage as SM City Marilao joins in the celebration of the Singkaban Fiesta 2007 from Sep. 8 to 15.

The Singkaban Fiesta, which is derived from Singing at Kalinangan ng Bulacan, is a week-long celebration of Bulacan's rich cultural heritage. Literally meaning bamboo arc, it is celebrated in line with the 109th anniversary of the Philippine Republic's First Congress, which took place on Sep. 15, 1898 at the Barasoain Church in Malolos.

Highlights of this annual

event have included the Indakan sa Kalye, Bulacan's own version of street dancing, the Pasiklaban Fireworks Display, and the Lakan at Lakambini ng Bulacan pageant. The event has also been a good time to showcase the products Bulacan has become known for—fireworks, plants and native delicacies like pastillas de leche, puto, and, inipit; as well as to honor outstanding Bulakenyos through its Gawad Pilaridel and Dangal ng Lipi Awards.

This year's theme, "Bagong Bulakenyo: Makabiyos, Makatao at Makakalikasan, Ma-

paghahal sa Pamilya, at Tapat sa Bayan, Himutok ng Panahon Parang Kawayan," depicts modern Bulakenyos as stalwarts of strength and values, just like the great heroes from the province—Marcelo and Gregorio del Pilar, and Francisco Balagtas Baltazar.

Bulacan Governor Jonjon Mendoza and Vice Governor Willy Sy-Alvarado recently led the launching of the Singkaban Fiesta 2007 activities at SM City Marilao.

The mall has been the venue of many exciting Singkaban activities since 2004, and it again will be hosting key events this year. These include the Fireworks Display at the mall's parking lot A on Sep. 8; and the pre-pageant screening of Lakan at Lakambini ng Bulacan contestants on Sep. 9.

Not to be missed are the Governor Jonjon Mendoza Bonsai Open and the 1st Bulacan Suiseki Competition on Sep. 10 and 11 at the mall's Event Center. These back-to-back competitions involve suiseki, small naturally formed stones admired for their power to suggest a scene in nature, which are often accompanied by bonsai trees during exhibits.

The Provincial Health Office will conduct the 2nd Bulacan Health Expo from Sep. 12 to 14, while a PetOne Dog Grooming Seminar on Sep. 15 will be helpful to dog lovers.

SM will also be participating in this year's Singkaban Float Competition on the last day of the festival. Accompanied by street dancing or Indakan sa Kalye, this will take place at the provincial capitol in Malolos City.

ING BANK NV MANILA BRANCH AND the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex), the joint organizers of the search for the outstanding CFO of the Year, are calling on Philippine corporations to continue submitting nominations.



PI-B CORPORATE BONDS

Splash Corp recently tapped SB Capital Investment Corp., a Security Bank Corp. (SBC) subsidiary, as its issue manager and underwriter for a P1-billion floating rate note facility. SBC, Rural Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) and Robinsons Savings Bank Corp. (RSBC) served as note holders to the loan facility set to mature in 2012. Splash Corp chair and CEO Dr. Rolando B. Hortaleza (seated 4th from left) led the signing ceremony with SBC president and CEO Alberto S. Villarosa (seated 3rd from left). With them are (seated from left) Emmanuel P. Manocom, Splash Corp senior

vice president and CFO; Reynold Y. Gerongay, SBC president and CFO; Villarosa; Hortaleza; Gen. Remy T. Tiguel (ret.) SB Capital Investment Corp. president; Uy Chun Bing, RCBC executive vice president; (standing, from left) Rommel S. Latanza, RCBC senior vice president; Conrado A. Gloria, SBC Capital Investment Corp. executive vice president; Ms. Carmencita Lopez, SBC assistant vice president, trust division; Patricia May F. Sy, SBC senior vice president; Juanito Andres A. Henson, RSBC vice president; Willfredo S. Talastas, SBC first vice president and trust division head.

Search for outstanding Philippine CFO continues

country's outstanding CFO. The endeavor is a joint undertaking of the ING Bank Manila branch and Finex—a partnership that is backed by co-presenters and media partners.

The organizers will accept entries until Sep. 15.

The CFO of the Year Award may be participated in by all local or foreign-owned, privately held or publicly listed companies operating in the Philippines and registered under the laws of the Philippines. Companies may be Philippine owned or the local subsidiary of multinational corporations operating in the Philippines.

The search for the outstanding CFO of the Year recognizes Philippine financial services leaders and their achievements. The awarding ceremony, slated for Nov. 29, is the culmination of an extensive nationwide seven-month search for the

co-presenters are Finex Foundation, The International Association of Financial Executives Institute or Ifafei, Asian Institute of Management-Governor Jose B. Fernandez Jr. Centre for Banking and Finance, and the CFA Society of the Philippines. Media partners are Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, and BusinessWorld.

The principal selection criteria for the awards are based on the values of integrity, leadership, effective stewardship based on the highest standards of business and professional ethics, and specific instances of wealth creation in finance and financial services that are worthy of recognition.

More information about the CFO of the Year Award is available at www.finex.org.ph.



TINIKLING dancers take center stage in Singkaban's famous Indakan sa Kalye.

NBDB conducts First Academic Publishing Conference in RP

TO HELP ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLEDGE and authorship in the academic setting, especially in the regions, the National Book Development Board (NBDB), with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), is holding an academic publishing conference titled "Developing Local Knowledge Through Academic Publishing". To be held on Sep. 10 at the Seameo-Innotech at Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, the day-long conference aims to help develop the publishing ca-

pabilities of academic institutions with university presses. Lectures on a wide array of topics will be delivered by speakers from institutions with long years of experience in the industry. Fuji Xerox Philippines Inc will also give an update on current trends in digital publishing. Simultaneous with the conference will be an exhibit of publications from academic presses to be held at the same venue. Interested parties may call the NBDB at 929-3677. Look for Asena Gaia.

Novartis gears for BioCamp 2007

TOP POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EXPERTS and industry leaders in the fields of biotechnology and medical biotechnology in the country gathered Aug. 10 for the "Biotechnology Forum" held at the Best Western Astor Hotel in Makati. The forum served as an excellent venue for information sharing and exchange on the state of biotechnology development in the country, and a primer for the coming Novartis International Biotechnology Leadership Camp (BioCamp) 2007, which will be held from Oct 6 to 8 in Tokyo, Japan.

BioCamp is an annual three-day biotechnology seminar for postgraduate students with high management and leadership potential in the said field of study. The seminar offers participants a chance to gain a broader view of the biotechnology sector and its benefits from a global perspective.

Pharmaceutical company Novartis started the biotechnology camp in 2004 as a way of giving back to the societies in which Novartis operates. The company believes that, "By educating talented young people about recent trends in the biotechnology industry and by promoting regional cooperation, we aim to contribute to the advancement of biotechnology worldwide." Novartis was named as the number one most admired pharmaceutical company in 2006 by Fortune Magazine.

BioCamp 2007 will convene some 40 participants from all over the world, with one or two representatives from each country. For three days, top postgraduate students from various countries will be given the opportunity to interact with their peers and learn from biotechnology experts from the academe, the industry and government officials.

Speaking during the Biotechnology Forum, Novartis (Philippines) commercial director for general medicine Amal Keishikar said, "(BioCamp) stimulates biotechnology in the country", referring to how the event could strengthen its development in the Philippines through a healthy exchange of innovative ideas that

should extend beyond borders and spread regionally and globally as well.

Two representatives will be chosen by Novartis among master or post-graduate students from top universities in the country to participate in the international BioCamp 2007. According to Novartis, the selection of candidates will be based on "academic excellence, professional focus and leadership potential."

This year's forum is unique as Novartis has decided to have a mix of students in medicine or science majors and business majors as well. Cora Varona, compensation and HR services manager of Novartis, explained the addition of business majors in the camp. She said that innovative ideas on biotechnology need to materialize from incubation to commercialization stage in order for humanity to maximize its advantages. This is where the combination of these students becomes significant as they leverage on each other's talents and capabilities. At the same time, BioCamp provides an excellent opportunity for Novartis to attract best-in-class talents by demonstrating to young people the career potentials that the pharmaceutical industry and Novartis can offer.

Aside from representatives from Novartis, the Biotechnology Forum was also graced by distinguished speakers who shared some updates on biotechnology as well as their opinions on the future of biotechnology in the Philippines. Dr. Gisela Concepcion, a multi-awarded researcher and professor of the Marine Science Institute at the University of the Philippines, talked about the importance of biotechnology in the field of science and medicine; while Dennis Posadas, a consultant of UP Ayala Technology Park and author of "Race & Cups: Technopreneurship and Innovation in Asia", shared his insights about the viability of biotechnology. Also, present in the event was Dennis Bela Ong, one of the country's representatives to BioCamp 2006 held in Singapore, who talked about his experiences during last year's event.



PWU PRESENTS 'MAYO...BISPERAS NG LIWANAG'

The Philippine Women's University recently presented to media the producers, cast and production team of the opera "Mayo... Bisperas ng Liwanag" to mark the 60th anniversary of the University's School of Music. The media presentation was held at the Mandate Manor Hotel in Malate, Manila. Shown is Dr. Helene Z. Benitez, (2nd from left), PWU board chair, enjoining the public to watch the opera-inspired by National Artist Nick Joaquin's "May Day Eve"-that links today's Filipinos back to their heritage. Also shown, from left, are Suzie Benitez, AVP, PWU Center for Culture, Arts and Music; Imelda

Marcos, honorary chair of the opera committee; Rides Cuyugan-Aseocio, librettist/lyricist and artistic director; Dr. Amelou Benitez Reyes and Dr. Dolores Lasan, PWU president and chancellor, respectively, and dean Harold Perfecto Galang of the School of Music, music director and conductor. Playdates are on Sep. 11 (8 p.m.) and 12 (3 p.m.) at the Cultural Center of the Philippines main theater, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. Tickets are available at Ticketworld outlets (891-9999) and at the PWU School of Music (339-2582 and 526-8421 loc 162).

BIG WIN FOR MABUHAY SATELLITE CORP

Mabuhay Satellite Corp. (MSC) recently inked a deal with PT Pasifik Satelite Nusantara PSN, a major VSAT operator in Indonesia, to provide satellite service to Telkom, Indonesia's largest telephone company. Shown are, from left: Agung Sesano, head, marketing, PSN; Agus Budi Tjahjono, VP, sales and marketing, PSN; Johnson Regaado, head, sales and marketing, MSC; Adi Awiwoso, president-chair, PSN; and Erik Kurnia, head, network operations, PSN. The service will provide two 45Mbps Internet backbone to Medan and Surabaya via Agila2 and its Hawaii Teleport Tier 1 Internet service providers. The system by-



passes Asian submarine cables that are prone to cable cut like what happened in the December 2006 earthquake.

Globe Broadband supports surgical forum

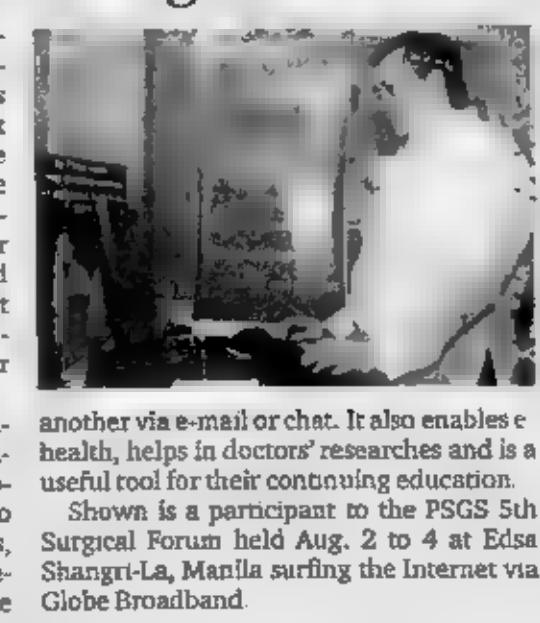
GLOBE BROADBAND BACKED the recently concluded 5th Surgical Forum of the Philippine Society of General Surgeons (PSGS) and provided broadband Internet access at the conference venue.

The delegates, consisting of surgeons from all over the country and residents and interns from hospitals and schools in Metro Manila, were able to search the Web and check their e-mails at the Globe lounge, which was powered by the company's fast and affordable broadband Internet service.

Globe supports PSGS as it advocates the use of information

technology as a tool to aid doctors in the exercise of their profession. Globe Broadband users can get to access more content as it enables them to visit more websites and download more data, music and video via high-speed connections much faster than dial-up. Globe Broadband offers real benefits to users as it allows real-time communication and provides them a richer multimedia experience.

It provides easy access to information relevant to the medical field such as news and updates, links Filipino surgeons to international medical societies, and allows fellows to conveniently communicate with one another via e-mail or chat. It also enables e-health, helps in doctors' researches and is a useful tool for their continuing education.



Henry Sison shares culinary expertise at Asia Food Expo

SAN MIGUEL PURE FOODS-GREAT Food Solutions (SMPP-GSF) brings back one of the country's top culinary experts Chef Henry Sison to share her culinary expertise once

more at this year's Asia Food Expo from Sep. 5 to 8 at the World Trade Center, Pasay City. The audience will surely make tasty discoveries in the cooking and baking demo on Sep. 8

at 1:30 p.m. as other guest chefs reveal the secrets behind favorite restaurant and café recipes, while whipping together a sumptuous feast at the Afex main activity area.



FROM left: Novartis Healthcare Philippines Inc HR associate Anne Beta, Novartis Healthcare Philippines Inc compensation and HR services manager, Cora Varona, Novartis Healthcare Philippines Inc commercial director for general medicine Amal Keishikar, University of the Philippines researcher and professor of the Marine Science Institute Dr. Gisela Concepcion, UP Ayala Technology Park consultant Dennis Posadas; and Novartis Healthcare Philippines Inc medical scientific liaison officer (MSL) Dr. Godwin Vilas

Nestlé champions wellness mind-set

By Ed Tamayo
Contributor

IN 2002, THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) reported that noncommunicable or lifestyle-related diseases had become so common that these ailments account worldwide for an alarming 60 percent of all deaths and 47 percent of all diseases.

What's more, these numbers are expected to rise to 73 percent and 60 percent, respectively, by 2020. Equally worrisome, 66 percent of these deaths occur in developing countries, among people who generally are younger than those in developed countries.

In response to this worrisome trend, the WHO has endorsed a global strategy on diet, physical activity and health. The strategy seeks to reduce exposure to risks which give rise to noncommunicable diseases. At the same time, it recognizes the fact that malnutrition remains a major cause of death and illness, especially in developing countries.

The WHO strategy also states that people can remain healthy even into their 90s, through a range of health-promoting behaviors that include healthy diets, adequate and regular physical activity, and avoiding the use of tobacco.

Nestlé to the challenge

Taking up the challenge, Nestlé group chair and CEO Peter Brabeck announced in 2003 Nestlé's strategic direction to grow from a respected and trustworthy food company into a respected and trustworthy food, nutrition and wellness company.

Today, Nestlé is in the midst of this strategic transformation, strengthening its nutrition, health and wellness portfolio with stronger innovation and branding as well as improved efficiency.

Nestlé Philippines' chair and CEO Nandu Nandkishore says that, in line with this strategic transformation, Nestlé recognizes that it must actively participate in addressing the health concerns of consumers.

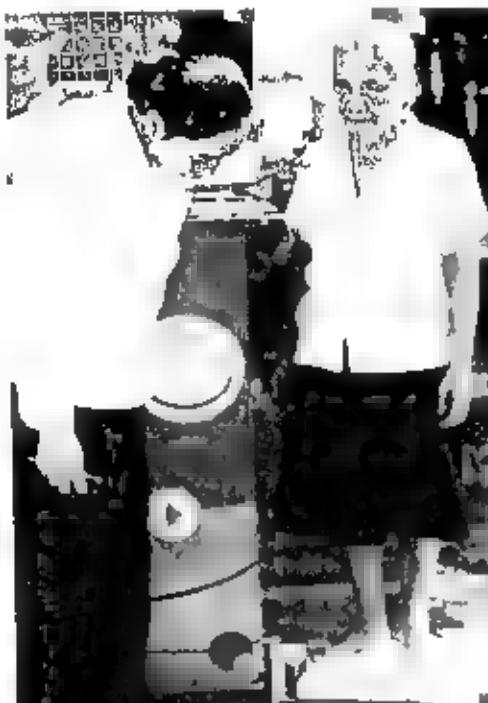
"We think that we must, now and in the future, partner with consumers who trust our brands to help them achieve the best possible quality of life. We can do so by promoting wellness with food and beverage as our point of reference, incorporating other elements necessary for wellness that synergize with nutrition."

Health, as defined by the WHO, is "the state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease." On the other hand, wellness is health, achieved with proper nutrition and physical activity.

In championing wellness, Nestlé director of communications Noy Dy-Liacco explains that Nestlé seeks to serve the changing needs of consumers and to help them obtain greater benefits as the company strives to make its

Nestlé is in the midst of strategic drive to transform and also strengthen its famed nutrition, health and wellness portfolio

MORE than 3,500 doctors, health workers and nutritionists joined in the Health and Nutrition summits.



A NESTLÉ rep checks a shopper's weight.

brands and products more relevant to them.

"In the process, we are transforming ourselves into The Nutrition, Health and Wellness Company from being The World Food Company," Dy-Liacco says.

He notes that Nestlé has a continuous heritage, since its founding in the 1860s, of promoting quality of life by providing good food and sound nutrition for generations of people worldwide.

Continuing campaign

Translating the global corporate thrust into local action, Nestlé Philippines launched a continuing campaign for both the general public and its employees now known as Choose Wellness, Choose Nestlé.

"We jumpstarted the Wellness campaign in March 2005 with the 1st Philippine Health and Nutrition Summit held in Manila, Tagaytay, Baguio, Cebu and Davao, rallying the support of authorities and specialists to help promote useful concepts of nutrition, health and wellness," shares Nestlé Corporate Wellness head Cora Sager.

During the summit, Nestlé launched a major initiative, a yearly search for five Outstanding Nutrition, Health and Wellness Programs in the Philippines. With its second year concluded recently, the search is a recognition program to

honor organized grassroots efforts all over the country that have succeeded in meeting specific nutrition, health and wellness concerns of various constituencies.

Sustainable practices

Using an intensive selection process, the search has recognized deserving programs in different parts of the country from both the public and private sectors. The outstanding programs serve as sustainable practices that can be replicated in other localities or by other groups with similar needs.

Following the 2005 summit, Nestlé launched its Wellness Program at SM Supermarkets in May 2005 and again in more supermarkets in February 2006. Thousands of shoppers availed of free nutrition counseling with professional nutritionists.

These activities in the past two years have been so encouraging that the company decided to bring Choose Wellness, Choose Nestlé to over 800 supermarkets, wet markets and drugstores this year.

Wellness to schools

Nestlé has also taken the Wellness Program to schools, to lay down the foundation for wellness education among children. Seminars were held for 80 private grade schools in Metro Manila last year.

While the primary students are the ultimate target beneficiaries of the program, the Wellness launch for schools initially targets school administrators, members of school committees on health and nutrition, and officers of Parents-Teachers Associations. These are the decision-makers who influence the content of health curricula, the choices of food served at canteens, and the kinds of physical and other recreational activities for students.

Workshops included

In July 2006, Nestlé started sharing its Wellness Campaign with other companies, including hospitals, call centers, telecom and food companies, hotel chains, and media enterprises, by conducting day-long Wellness Workshops.

The workshops aimed to equip the representatives of these companies with the necessary know-how to better assess the health and wellness profile of their coemployees and help them design a customized program for their respective companies.

Today, Nestlé has conducted the workshop for some 60 companies, and the number is

growing each day.

Internal program

Since the wellness mind-set must start at home, Nestlé has initiated and sustained an internal Wellness Program for its employees. The program consists of nutrition education training, regular physical activities, and an intensive communications program to build awareness on the different aspects of health and wellness.

"The motivation to choose a life of wellness must come from within and requires personal commitment," says Sager.

To encourage employees to choose and pursue wellness, Nestlé organized Wellness Days, where employees participated in regular nutrition counseling and a variety of physical activities that include body jam, taebo, Latin dancing and belly dancing.

To date, nearly 500 employees have personally committed themselves to the internal Wellness Program, where each participating employee is given a target weight to gain, maintain or lose in order to achieve ideal body weight.

Apart from individual weight targets, there are also group targets, where the cumulative weights of members are considered. Those who hit targets are rewarded.

Nutrition basics

Last year, the Corporate Wellness Unit gathered all canteen concessionaires of Nestlé work sites for a two-day nutrition workshop, where they were taught the basics of nutrition.

"Through the workshop, we hope to be able to influence the concessionaires to make more nutritious food available for our employees," Cora explains.

After starting the task of creating awareness on the importance of wellness among different segments of the population, Nandkishore says that Choose Wellness, Choose Nestlé now asks consumers to be proactive and make wellness their choice, as a way of life.

"We want to help consumers become more aware of the importance of nutrition and diet, and help them manage their lifestyle practices, so they can live healthier and more fulfilling lives," Nandkishore says.

"There is still a long way to go in making daily practices of wellness a part of the Filipino way of life. But Nestlé is committed to help the Filipino consumer choose a life of wellness," he says.

Ed Tamayo is the chair and CEO of ComHorizon Inc.

CHERY opens a window for the Filipinos to enjoy what the Europeans and Americans do in buying high quality products from China

Would you like to go places in an MPV priced like an AUV? Or would you like to go to work with just a few pesos spent for fuel but arriving in style and comfort? Or would you like to drive an SUV for the price of a sedan? If your answer is yes, then Chery might just be the right choice. The mission of Chery's Acteco engine is to achieve the optimum performance possible in a fuel-injected engine. This means peak performance with the lowest fuel consumption. To top it all, Chinese manufacturers adopt the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) method in determining the life expectancies of all spare parts. Whatever benefits they get in their research is passed on through the cars that they sell or export.

Contrary to beliefs, China-made cars are often times better than other Asian countries or even European countries because the manufacturing equipment are mostly, if not all, made in the USA or in Europe. The raw materials, particularly the metal parts, are of superior quality because China can afford to hire good metallurgists plus the employment of robotics and precision instruments.

If China could sustain their aerospace technology programs, I do not see how they could not be able to build quality vehicles.

EFFICIENCY NEED NOT BE EXPENSIVE!



NESTLÉ employees go through wellness workouts as well.



BUSINESS Friday

Paging service is coming back

By Frank Cimatu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—REMEMBER the pager, that black device strapped on the belt which alerts the user (sometimes embarrassingly) when he has a message?

In the United States, pagers were alpha-numeric where only the telephone number of the sender would be reflected.

But in the Philippines, simple messages are sent back to a pager.

In typical Filipino Catholic fashion, cusswords were censored by the employee receiving the call.

People thought that pagers would

last forever but the technology would be rendered obsolete by texting.

But now a sort of a paging service is coming back.

A new locator at the Baguio Export Processing Zone, the Florida-based WW Outsourcing International Services Inc., is a telephone answering service company that is more than a call center firm.

Doris Primicerio, WOIS founder, said she would be employing about 300 agents in their new location.

"Clients are waiting back home for us to start," she said.

The telephone answering service (TAS) industry has much evolved from the telephone operator setup it once was when she started in the industry in 1973 when she was 17.

"We take the calls for offices of physicians, service companies and professional companies during the times they are out of their offices. We transmit the messages to our customers via fax, e-mail, pager, cell phone or to their residence according to the pre-arranged instructions of each client," she said.

Pagers are also getting obsolete but there are still some customers, especially doctors, who use them.

"We also set appointments for our clients. We take orders, credit card information and processing," Primicerio said.

Courteous Communications Corp., a company Primicerio founded in Flori-



People think texting has rendered pagers as obsolete technology. Well, they might be in for a big surprise

da in 1986, is one such TAS.

For example, a patient would like to talk to his doctor during the off-hours for a medical emergency. He would call the company's number and a telephone receptionist would accept the call.

The receptionist would send the message to the doctor either through e-mail, fax, pager, cell phone or text messaging, or a combination of these methods, depending on the urgency.

This would also apply to a nurse at a hospital contacting a doctor for orders regarding patients.

Primicerio said in the WOIC, 80 percent of their clients are in the medical field. These include doctors, dentists, chiropractors and those in the home care services.

She said they also receive calls from plumbers, electricians, pool services and pest control workers, realtors, lawyers and accountants.

"We get about 350,000 calls a month," she said.

She said they would expect the same volume when the WOIS here would be fully operational.

In Florida, Primicerio said they would give speaking and writing examinations for 20 applicants and only four would pass the tests.

"But here in Baguio, I tested and interviewed 20 people and 19 passed. That's phenomenal. Your city should be proud," she said.

She said they would initially get 75 agents and then hire 225 more for three shifts for a 24/7 service. WOIS is located at the Norwegian building at the Baguio Export Processing Zone.

"We started by outsourcing agents in two countries. We found our best agents were in the Philippines. This is when we decided to open WW Outsourcing International Services Inc.," she said.



THE PAGING business still has a market

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See page 10 for details. Please present to front desk. 3rd Aug. 2007. Per MDCA Permit No. 2021. Series of 2007.



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Business Features Editor
Margie Quimpo-Espino

BUSINESS Friday

In Sorsogon, villagers still sell seashells by the shore

Text and photos by Joanna Los Baños
Inquirer Southern Luzon

GUBAT, SORSOGON—ARRIVING AT RIZAL beach in Gubat town, 19 kilometers from Sorsogon City, one would marvel at the sight of the long cove of powdery white sand and the spectacular view of the Pacific Ocean.

Along the shore, women carrying bilao

(round native trays) filled with different items made of shells would be seen walking, hawking their wares to any visitor they may chance upon.

For these women, the sight of visitors at the beach makes them smile for it means business is at hand.

Most people consider going to the beach a treat—something they want to do yet

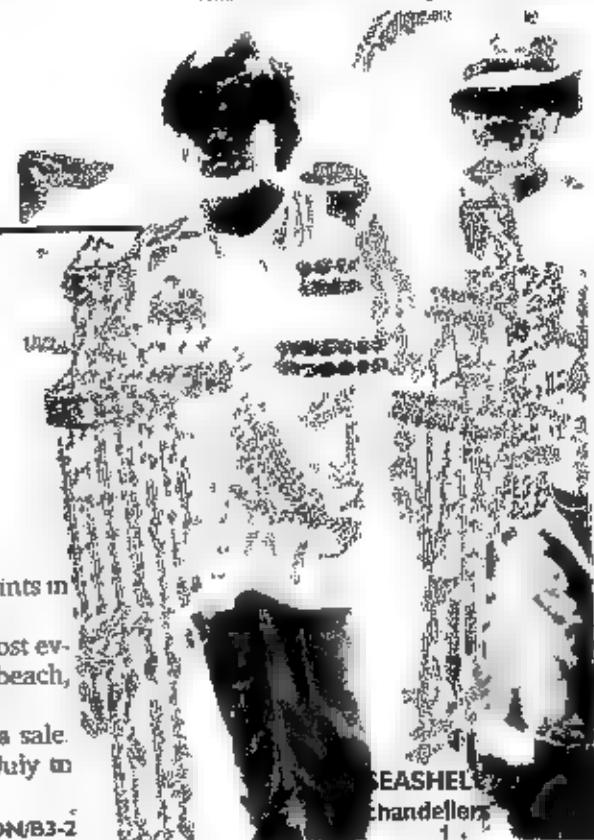
Sellers earn as much as P2,000

rarely get to undertake due to constraints in time and resources.

But these women get to spend almost everyday, especially weekends, at the beach, selling shells.

The women do not always make a sale. During the off-peak months, from July to February, profits are lean.

IN SORSOGON/B3-2



Toyota takes automotive lead with local production of Vios

Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation, the biggest automotive company in the country, unveiled the all-new version of the best-selling passenger car, the Vios.

TMP is confident that the introduction of this new model, will surpass the heritage of the previous generation Vios, fortifying Toyota's leadership in the passenger car segment and in overall sales.

"We mark the Line-off Ceremony as another significant milestone in the history of Toyota Motor Philippines as we launch our

newest model, the all-new Vios," said Dr. Ty. "This best-selling local passenger car shall now be manufactured in this plant to global Toyota quality standards."

"With the completely-knocked-down Vios, we are strengthening our local production and taking the next big step in the development of the Philippine automotive industry," Dr. Ty explained.

"The new Vios is now ready to take on a more established role, not only in terms of its sales and product aspects, but also in terms of Toyota's overall contribution in society," said TMP president Ito

The Vios is now produced as a CKD model, reinforcing Toyota's role of creating more jobs and encouraging more investments. With this significant development, Toyota's plant will be producing one of its major volume models.

"As the number one vehicle company in the country, Toyota is committed to meet the dynamic needs of our customers. At the same time, we are proud to be a continuing partner of the Philippine Government in the task of building this great nation," declared Dr. Ty.

Since 1988, the Toyota Group has brought in over P20 billion in

investments, with the Vios localization project accounting for P1 billion. In terms of revenue generation, the Toyota Group has remitted over P70 billion in taxes and customs duties to the national and local governments since the company started operating.

In 2006, the Toyota Group accounted for 27% of all Philippine automotive exports with a total of US\$542 million. Furthermore, the Group employs more than 12,000 team members throughout the country, including its network of dealers and suppliers.

The Toyota Special Economic

Zone in Santa Rosa, Laguna is now the hub of a state-of-the-art manufacturing and distribution enterprise, employing world-class systems and staffed by highly skilled Team Members. Today, Toyota is providing its customers with locally-built cars such as the Innova, the Corolla Altis, the All-New Vios and services whose quality is equal to that available anywhere else around the globe. These completely knocked-down (CKD) products, combined with the other models, make Toyota the automaker offering the widest line-



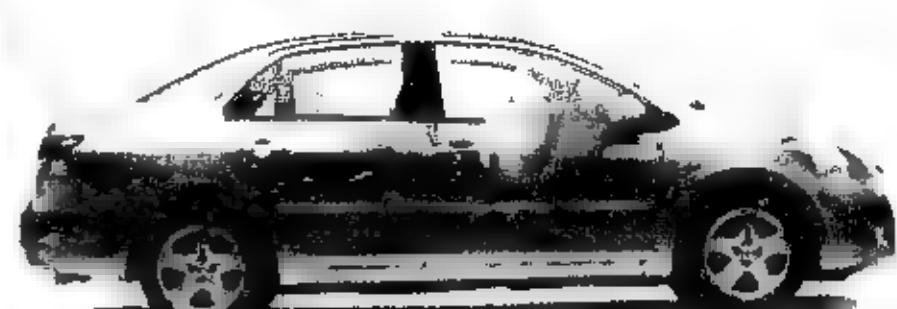
Metrobank

up with 12 products to fit the various needs of its customers.

Toyota's commitment to be a driving force in Philippine business and society will always be moving forward. Other than the sales figures, Toyota is always aiming to provide products and services for the customers and conduct programs which make every vehicle purchase and ownership more affordable, convenient, and an altogether satisfying experience.

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From there to here, 2 miles away.
From me to you, 2 smiles, my dear.
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www.toyota.com.ph

Recyclers earn P50,000 from trash

A project led by SM turns people into entrepreneurs

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A wide array of garbage collected by mothers, office workers, drivers and small entrepreneurs fetched more than P50,000 from recycling companies in the recently held Waste Market Fair here.

These people submitted 599 kg of electronic wastes and PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottles, 1,600 kg of paper and carton, 21 pieces of lead acid batteries and 112 pieces of ink and toner cartridges in the fair.

SM City Pampanga, the host of the Aug. 25 event, reported the sales based on records of recycling companies like the YGARC which bought the empty cartridges; Trust International Paper Co. (Tipco), paper and carton; Semi Recycling, old computers and PET bottles; and Philippine Recyclers, used lead acid batteries.

The waste market fair was a project of the SM Supermalls, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippine Business for the Environment, and the city government

of San Fernando.

"[The fair] makes it possible for one to transact business with recycling companies and exchange recyclable items for cash while promoting the environmental advantages of recycling and proper waste disposal," the partners said in a statement here.

They said the next fair, to be held at the SM City Clark parking lot on Sept. 8, would buy used items such as cartons, newspapers, notebooks and bond papers, ink and toner cartridges, electronic wastes such old central processing units, keyboards, computer monitors and other electronic appliances, lead batteries for cars, trucks and rechargeable lamps, PET bottles and other plastic products, and aluminum and tin cans.

At the same time, the DENR in Central Luzon continued to promote the 3Rs—or the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste—amid what it called "worsening garbage problem" in the region despite the passage of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (Republic Act No. 9003) in 2000.

The law requires the mandatory segregation of solid wastes at the source



prior to collection.

It also states that the mixing of source-separated recyclable material with other solid waste in any vehicle, box, container or receptacle used in solid waste collection or disposal is prohibited and punishable of up to P500,000 fine, plus a maximum 10 percent of the violator's net annual in-

come during the previous year.

Regidor de Leon, DENR regional director, said if every person generates half a kilogram of garbage a day, the region's eight million residents could draw as much as 4,000 tons of trash daily or 1.44 million tons yearly.

De Leon said the 3Rs were "practical and doable" efforts in easing the

garbage problem.

In Central Luzon, he said local governments collect 70 percent of the garbage generated by households and business establishments.

The rest end up in canals, vacant lots, street corners, market places, creeks and rivers. Tonne Oregas, Inquirer Central Luzon

In Sorsogon, villagers still sell seashells ...

From page B3-1

"When it is off-peak season, sometimes there are days when we really have no sales," said Cecilia Estadilla, 43, one of the women selling shell products. "Maswerte na pag may bumili (you'd be lucky if anyone buys from you)"

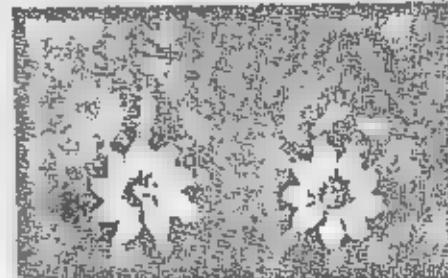
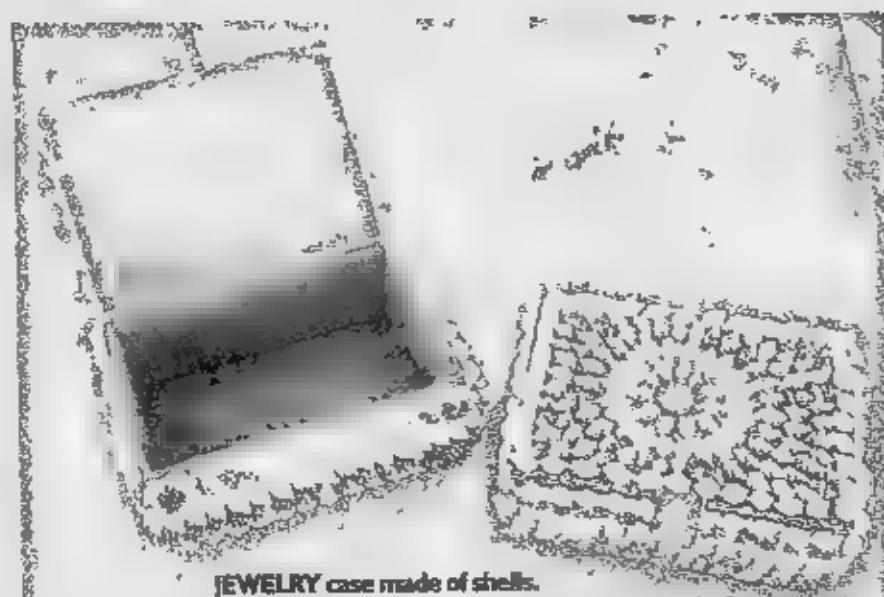
Earning nothing on most days, however, does not stop the women from going back to the beach.

"I hope someone can help us," added Aurora Firanda, 56, another woman selling shells. "Minsan wala talaga benta (there are days when we don't make a sale)."

But during peak season, especially in summer, selling shell products becomes a different story.

The shell makers said they earn as much as P2,000 a day.

The women all agree that what they earn may just be enough to put food on their table. What remains of



shell business.

They also said it took them several months to get back their investment.

Some of the shells that they process are gathered from the shoreline. Others were brought by shell suppliers from neighboring towns, who bring different kinds of shell.

The women buy the shells per pint, which costs from P15 to P300, depending on the variety.

Lenny Fabidane, 40, who has been making shell products since she was six years old.

"But sometimes those who make these accessories acquire eye problems since making the products is strenuous to the eyes," Dio said.

Marian Ferreras, 12, is the youngest among the women selling shells.

Ferreras, who is a freshman at the Gubat National High School, said she goes to the beach every weekend to sell shell products her aunt makes.

The money I earn becomes my school allowance, she said, adding that if she happens to earn extra, she gives it to her family.

Most of the women here said they spent P1,000 to P10,000 to start their

bracelets and anklets. Each costs anywhere from P5 to P450, depending on the materials used.

The women also sell accessories made of plastic beads.

Aside from the plain shell key chains, they also fashion chains in the form of flowers, pigs, turtles and other animals.

They also sell shell rosaries that cost P10, and chandeliers at P25 to P1,200, depending on the size.

"The bigger the chandelier, the more expensive," Fabidane said.

Other items that they make out of shells are jewelry cases, cellular phone accessories and table decorations.

Ditas Dolor, senior trade and development specialist of the Department of Trade and Industry in Sorsogon province, said she is encouraging the shell makers to register with their office.

She said, under the DTI, the shell makers can undergo product development training to further develop their skills.

"What we are doing now in DTI is incorporating shells, making it accessories in the abaca handicraft since Gubat is one of the handicraft-producing towns in the province," Delot said. "Abaca is also the focus of Gubat since it is under

the one town, one product [program] of the DTI."



TABLE decorations

the money will be set aside for their children who go to school.

Even if these women do not belong to any organization of shell makers, they said they do not compete with each other.

"We support each other here and we are happy," said Firanda.

Family thing

Everyone in the family is involved in this small business.

While the men in their households till the farms or haul fish from the sea, the women help in making the shell products.

"Even our daughters help us make accessories and other products made of shells," said Imelda Dio, 48, who

has seven children.

She has been making shell products since she was six years old.

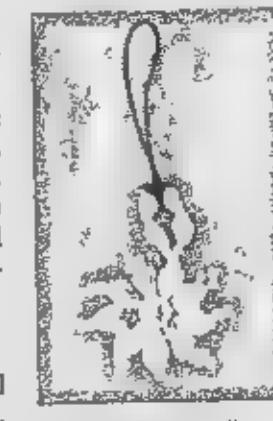
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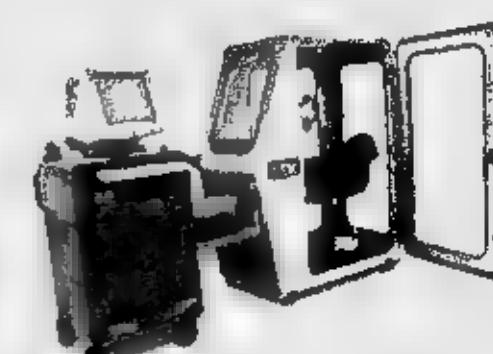
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FLOWER-SHAPED cell phone accessory



Jan Roque on Health Partnership at The Medical City Adult Wellness Center

My blood pressure reached a high of 160/110. The Medical City. During my consultation, I would be taking care of me during and after the treatment. I am a safe place. My wife was with me the whole

DHL seeks more YES people (Young Entrepreneurs for Sustainability)

By Riza T. Olchondra

IN BUSINESS, HOW DO YOU KNOW you've delivered?

Entrepreneurs typically measure performance in terms of financial profits, but a new breed called social entrepreneurs apparently care more about the impact of their enterprise on society and the community.

DHL Express Philippines, the local presence of the Deutsche Post subsidiary, recently selected its top social entrepreneur through the DHL Young Entrepreneurs for Sustainability (DHL YES) Awards.

The award seeks to recognize and support young community leaders as part of its thrust for social responsibility.

DHL defined the social entrepreneur as an individual who conceptualizes, innovates and implements programs to help improve the lives of his or her countrymen in line with the millennium development goals.

At the awarding ceremony at the Ayala Museum in Makati City on Aug. 17, DHL Express Philippines country manager Larry Liamzon honored the finalists for the inaugural search. They are

Dexter "Brix" Briones, 33, is president of Power Memory Franchising Inc.

He is one of the people responsible for implementing new methods of enhancing one's memory that cater to both students and professionals.

The business is located in Pasig City, Metro Manila. The four-year-old venture aims to develop practical memory training skills and techniques to help people efficiently process information.

It was once a purely profit-oriented business built around the franchising model, but Briones soon found that the techniques it teaches could help students learn faster and gain confidence.

Briones shared that the company approached the Department of Education (DepEd) and proposed an arrangement where Power Memory would be given time slots during school hours to teach students memory-enhancing techniques or assist teachers to integrate such techniques in their existing lesson plans.

"We were referred to some classes in Caloocan City where the students had difficulty coping with their lessons," Briones said. "It was very challenging but we have seen a significant improvement in the students' retention



and level of confidence."

Briones said his aim is to replicate the success of the program in more public schools, to help improve the quality of its graduates.

"These children will be our future workers, our future leaders. Teaching them how to improve their memory not only improves their performance, it gives them confidence. This will help them in future endeavors. It is good that we are also turning a profit through the franchising, but it is even better from our perspective that we are using the profits to be able to help students in the public school system," he said.

Emerson Atanacio, 33, is the founder of the National College of Science and Technology.

NCST is a school that provides industry-specific training and work for young people from low-income households. The school is located in Dasmarinas, Cavite.

When he was 23 years old, Atanacio, together with his friends and elder brother, pooled their resources to found a school that would give quality education for less fortunate families. Thus, the beginning of NCST.

Atanacio's nine-year-old enterprise teaches young people from low-income families through a self-help program using the Dual Training System.

Under the system, students get theoretical and practical training according to industry needs. They are also allowed to get freelance jobs using the skills they learned.

The employment serves as additional practical training and the income it



DHL Express country manager Larry Liamzon with Ilac Diaz

gives covers installments for their school fees.

Aside from industry training, the students have a computer laboratory to familiarize them with the use of computers and the Internet, with a student-computer ratio of 1:1.

In 2005, the school offered its first institutionally developed courses, the Certificate in Manufacturing Technology and the Diploma in Production Technology course, both under the Dual Training Systems Department.

Today, the school has 143 full-time and 30 part-time employees. Gaining the respect and confidence of the academic community in Cavite for his entrepreneurial work, Atanacio was elected as the first president of the Association of Public and Private Technical Education and Training Providers of Cavite Inc.

"We find that there are many bright and promising young people, but they

find it hard to get an education and jobs, because they had little money to go to school or their training was too generalistic to apply to industries within their community, or both. Our school helps to change that, so they get industry-specific learning and they can pay their way through school by applying what they have learned. This changed the lives of many out-of-school youths for the better, and we are happy to be part of this positive change," Atanacio said.

Ilac Angelo Diaz, 35, won the YES awards with Pier One, his business in Intramuros, Manila.

Diaz was declared the winner for his landmark Pier One Seafarer's Dormitory. The place offers a clean, safe and affordable transient housing for maritime overseas Filipino workers and their families within Manila.

They also receive placement assistance, temporary employment while processing their papers, skills upgrading, and even sex education to guard against HIV/AIDS.

When he was doing his thesis for his Masters in Entrepreneurship from the Asian Institute of Management, Diaz and his classmates were assigned to walk around Manila Bay to think of a business that could be developed near the bay area.

During this so-called "serendipity walk," Diaz found a long line of hopeful seafarers from different parts of the country crowding around the manning agencies in the TM Kalaw area, waiting to be given the chance to set sail.

He realized that they had no housing and employment alternatives and

some have resorted to living in shanties in dangerous places.

Recognizing the dire need of this labor segment and their contribution to the economy through remittances, Diaz set up a 40-bed dormitory in 2000. Today, Pier One has 1,500 beds with branches in Intramuros, Recto and Ermita. The profits are invested back into the business for upgrading and expanding facilities.

Pier One has given way to build-for stay and work-for-stay systems under Diaz' CentroMigrante project. Under the project, tenants can help construct units from prefabricated parts in exchange for a period of free occupancy or take on minor jobs to get an allowance.

CentroMigrante also provides skills seminars on career development, personal finance, remittances management and small businesses, and coordinates with 400-plus manning agencies to establish an onsite job board to help with job searches.

The prototype system was able to reduce average waiting time for jobs from seven to three months.

Diaz said about 90,000 seafarers have been served by the project.

"Most of the outreach and CSR (corporate social responsibility) projects now existing use the cash-burn system, getting donations and then spending until the money runs out. What social entrepreneurs prove with their work is that there is a way to serve and also turn a profit, which will again be used to serve the community," he said.

More YES people needed

Liamzon, meanwhile, expressed confidence that social entrepreneurship will gain ground in the Philippines, supported by efforts to increase awareness, including the DHL YES awards.

"It has been said that we need an army of social entrepreneurs to really make an impact, but we are getting there," he said.

"That is why we are embarking on this search, and why we are rooting for Ilac to win in the regional competition. We want to raise the profile of social entrepreneurship in the country, to motivate more people to effect change. Businesses that turn huge profits get a lot of accolades, but really, the social entrepreneurs should be lauded more because they are the ones who are making more positive changes," he added.

Spa for P299, anyone?

From page B3-4

offering clean, private rooms and very good services. In other spas, customers have to pay extra for a private room, whereas in Big Apple, every customer has his own.

They also invest on excellent training program for the staff to make sure that customers get quality services. By doing this, the spa was able to lower its prices, making them really affordable to their target market.

The most popular services are the Manhattan Anti-Stress, which is designed to make the customer feel calm and relaxed using mineral oil, and the Wall Street Energy, a dry massage which uses pressure to energize the body. Each massage costs P299.

Other services are Massages of the World such as the Pinoy Hirol, Balinese

Massage, and Hawaiian Lomi-Lomi. They also offer foot spa, facial, scalp treatment, manicure and pedicure.

They also choose locations that are convenient and very visible to the people. One of their branches is inside the Gateway mall near the LRT, a strategy that enables everyone to see the outlet every time they take the train. Other branches are in Market! Market!, SM Mall of Asia, and SM Lipa.

Big Apple also believes in helping people by giving them jobs that do not require a college degree. "We hire people based on attitude. As long as they believe in the concept. Even if you don't know how to massage, we'll put you into training; in two weeks time, you'll already know how to massage.

There are so many people out there

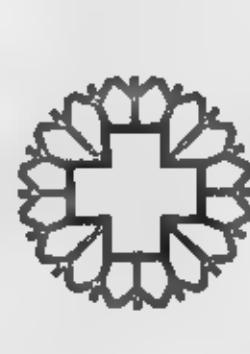
looking for jobs, and that's part of our vision, to help the Filipino people by providing them with jobs," adds Nisce.

As more and more people discover the benefits of a budget spa, Big Apple aims to go global in a few years time. Other budget spa may sprout and imitate what Big Apple has started, but Big Apple is confident that it can still be on top. Knowing that they have tapped a market that also needs to indulge in their desire to relax and pamper themselves without straining their budget, Big Apple believes that they have carved their own niche.

Big Apple Express Spa outlets are soon to open in The Fort, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Subic, and in Robinsons Galleria. Big Apple Express Spa is open for franchising.



BUSINESS PARTNERS: Victor Fernando, Mark Orbes, Rosalin Gao-Paguanan and Karlo Nica.



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BIG APPLE takes pride in its facilities which are clean and conducive for relaxation

LIFESTYLE

LIFESTYLE

Simonin says ...

Philippe Simonin, famous French inventor of a non-invasive anti-aging cosmetic technique, is in town to team up with Vicki Belo.

By Chito Gonzales-Perez

BEAUTY IS AND WILL ALWAYS be a booming industry. Even people with lower income can afford beauty products. In a disastrous economic situation, there is always a part of their budget reserved



Philippe Simonin

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Having been founded in 1962, the Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company (Metrobank) has, indeed, gone through great triumphs and travails in order to operate as a universal bank for 45 years. As the current year marks Metrobank's 45th anniversary of excellent banking leadership, the Metrobank Card Corporation is also pleased to partake in this grand celebration of leadership as one of Metrobank's most trusted subsidiaries.

Metrobank Card Corporation (MCC) has always been known to continually deliver new and exciting things for its cardholders. Worldwide acceptance, higher credit limits, and rewards programs are just a fraction of the wonderful features that the cards have to offer. Over the past years, MCC aggressively developed and brought to market innovative products, services, and various programs that provide value to its customers while attracting the attention of potential customers.

The success of Ferme Visa and Cash2Go can be attributed to MCC's targeting the customer's specific needs and wants. Its sustainability is due to MCC's customer service improvement and steadfast commitment to improving capabilities in information management.

Already achieving success in past years through strategic partnerships, MCC currently realizes excellent performance by working with key partners. However, one of the most important components to the success of MCC cannot be overlooked—the unfaltering dedication and energy of its employees.



Tony Maughan, the new incumbent president of MCC, further shares his vision of the future. "While some people would see the target of being the number one card company in the region as a very visionary aspiration, I would say that it's a very real aspiration for us. If we pull up, challenge the boundaries, I don't see what can stop us."

Great things are definitely taking shape at Metrobank Card Corporation as they continue to uphold their core values of living the Filipino "Bayanihan Spirit". Metrobank is committed to creating and providing the best possible value for their core constituents and striving to deliver a wide array of premium-value products and services with distinctive quality. Through the outstanding leadership of the MCC's mother company Metrobank, great skillfulness and quality performance is unquestionably parallel.



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LIFESTYLE

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Simonib SAYS . . .

BY SIMONIB

Simonib's column is a weekly column featuring tips and techniques on how to live better.

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Simonin says...

From page C1

for beauty."

So says world-renowned anti-aging doctor Philippe Simonin, whose high-profile clients include French Prime Minister Francois Fillon and actress Audrey Tatou ("Amélie" and "Da Vinci Code"). Two years ago, he went all over Asia to survey the beauty market for possibilities, courtesy of the luxury skincare brand La Prairie. "Unfortunately, they did not take me to Manila," he laments.

Let it be. The Philippines tends to be overlooked by most business scouts for obvious economic reasons. Thanks however to gung-ho entrepreneurs like Vicki Belo, the best products and services eventually find their way to these shores.

And so Simonin is now in town to train the resident doctors and aestheticians of the Belo Medical Group on the Simonin Method of dermatological care.

"Instead of training with him in Paris and coming home to then train my staff," says Belo, "I flew him in to give our doctors first-hand training."

The Belo clinic for men on the fifth level of Rustan's in Makati is being renamed Belo Medical Group-Dr. Philippe Simonin Method. (The men's clinic should not be confused with the cosmetic and derma clinic for women also in Rustan's that is doing very well, thank you very much.)

Full range

The reinvented clinic offers the entire range of the Simonin dermatological procedures, from the Electro-Ridopuncture Process (ERP) for wrinkles and cell regeneration to Anti-Aging Transdermal System (ATS) for anti-aging to CRTS for hair loss.

Belo sought out Simonin in Paris as part of her research and development for her thriving medical group.

"It was hard to get on Dr. Simonin's waiting list. When he finally was able to treat me on one of my trips, it was at 11 p.m., but it was worth it. I was just blown away," she recalls.

Simonin says he sees around 28 clients a day. He works from 8 a.m. to midnight. He spends two or three days of the week at his clinic in Paris and two or three days at the Philippe Simonin Beauty Institute in Geneva.

"There is no surgery, no injection and no burning of the skin," assures Simonin. He uses ERP, which allows

the treatment of the cutaneous senescence and skin imperfections like acne and wrinkles.

ATS involves applying electrodes made from 18-carat gold to the skin. Through low-tension currents, Simonin makes the cells believe they must heal a scar that we call a wrinkle. As if it is wounded, the epidermis deeply regenerates, and the wrinkles are filled out until they disappear. The treatment is done quickly—30 minutes tops—without pain and without any side effects for patients.

Unique technique

Belo is quick to admit that the Simonin process is so unlike her existing techniques, most of which she has pioneered in the Philippines and which rely on state-of-the-art equipment.

"There are four methods listed in the French cosmetology and dermatological encyclopedia," says Belo. "One is plastic surgery. Another is fillers and Botox. Another is chemical peeling and lasers. And then there is the Simonin process."

Simonin counts the most faithful beauty-seekers among his clients. After the initial treatments, they show up at his clinic once a month.

At the media lunch tendered by Belo at her fabulous Dasmariñas home for the French anti-aging expert, slides were shown of patients whose skin hardly changed from 20 years ago when they first started seeing Simonin. "Maintenance is very important," he stresses.

For other people, however, wrinkles are the least of their worries. For patients whose faces are infected with acne or disfigured by scars, there is hope. Slides taken after a few treatments show Simonin's patients having clear or near-smooth skin again through the Simonin pro-

"I can treat scars that are red, brown, indented or domed," says Simonin. "But body scars are harder to treat than facial scars."

Simonin first came up with the ERP process in 1983 while working as a researcher. He later did biopsies at the Rothschild Foundation which proved the nonexistence of vascular or nervous risks. These biopsies were then submitted to Centre National de la Recherche. The result of his rigor-



NEW TEAM in town. French anti-aging doctor Philippe Simonin and beauty expert Vicki Belo will be offering Simonin's non-invasive French dermatological procedures at Belo Medical Group clinic in Rustan's Makati.

ous and relentless work earned him a place in the French dermatological encyclopedia.

It was not until 2007, however, that Simonin perfected and registered a patent for a technique that produced the same results as ERP without having to insert subcuta-

neous needles into the furrow of the wrinkles.

In his battle against skin aging, Simonin has also produced, through an internationally renowned Swiss laboratory, a line of cosmetic products that safeguards against visible signs of aging.

Best-Kept Beauty Secrets

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Make Up For Ever's Glossy Full is an ultra-brilliant lip gloss that creates a high-gloss effect with one application and a vinyl effect with two or three. It is colorless and is designed to be applied over any lipstick. It will not affect the color or intensity of the lipstick. Despite its high-gloss effect, Glossy Full is not sticky. It keeps the lipstick in place longer while providing moisture and protection from external irritants. It also has the added benefit of a mild plumping effect. The result is soft, supple, youthful lips.

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Colorful diamonds

THERE'S A GREAT SOLUTION FOR getting that peachy sheen on your nails—one without a stiff price tag and not requiring a visit to an expensive salon. From Bobbie Nail Cosmetics, an industry leader for over 20 years, comes the Bobbie Diamond Collection.

For common problems like hang nails, dry nails and tough cuticles, there's Bobbie Diamond Collection's Fortifying Oil, an energy booster that restores nails to tiptop shape. This unique formula has Vitamin E, Jojoba Oil, Sweet Almond Extract and Borage Oil to keep the nail area more elastic, flexible, moisturized, and youthful. This oil-rich formula also provides needed hydration to keep nails from becoming brittle so they look their best with or without polish.

Weak, brittle and soft nails will find the answer in Nail Growth Solution. It has amino-acid bearers and calcium panthenate that aid in nail generation, and Vitamin E and soy protein that act as antioxidants to nourish nails and protect them against everyday wear and tear.

Bobbie Diamond's Nail Whitener is the quick solution to embarrassing yellow, discolored nails. It has green tea extract that

provides renewed strength to weak nails and Blush White that smoothes out the nail surface with a nice milky coat that helps conceal discoloration, bringing back nails' healthy look.

Fragile nails can count on Bobbie Diamond's Nail Strengthener. It has Benzo/Methionine complex, which is conceived for weak and fragile nails, to help nails become less brittle. Acrylic Resins ensures hardening of nails and better resistance to film.

Meanwhile, for yellow nails, dull colors and nail polish that peels off easily, try 2-in-1 Quick Dry, a quick-dry formulation of base and/or topcoat that protects and highlights the luster of nail color. It has a protective film that makes nail enamel last longer.

Whether you like your nails natural or prefer them polished with the latest and most fashionable colors, nail care is a very important barometer of your general well-being and attitude toward life. It is therefore in your best interest to keep them looking terrific. Have them cared for and protected through the complete line of Bobbie Diamond Collection Treatment products, which are available at Watson's outlets.



Beauty adjustments as the season changes

WE HAD JUST LEFT spring and summer, and we are now entering autumn (September-November); then we shall proceed to winter (December-February).

As the weather gets cooler, clothing and makeup will become more formal and come in richer, more dramatic tones and textures. I am useless in the fashion department but I can help you beauty-wise.

Autumn-winter is actually my favorite season because there is a marked difference between day-work makeup and evening dates; it's sort of like having a secret identity where you are all natural or professional by day and then transforming yourself to whatever you want to be after-hours.

We Asians are actually in our element as our natural coloring is made for these richer textures and deeper colors.

Gone are the shimmery pastels and lip

MAKEOVER 911



Kinny Salas

NUDE LIPS.
Make Up For Ever transparent 443, Guerlain Envie de Beige, Fashion 21 Color Mood in Innocent Plum and Smashbox in Pale Pout

gloss often suited for only the very young, exceptionally beautiful or Caucasians, while we Orientals look puffy or washed out. We can now wear the darker lipsticks in reds that do not come in sheer form and it makes all the difference to our look when worn even with makeup-free skin.

Read on to clue yourself on the rules and remedies:

1. Love the nude/neutral makeup, but don't be too comfortable with red lipstick. Work on your eye area instead. Go heavier



LA MER Treatment Creme Foundation SPF 15, Make Up For Ever Liquid Lift foundation, Beauticontrol Secret Agent Foundation and Wrinkle Deflector, and Fanny Serrano Crème Mousse Foundation

on the eyeliner and define the brows. In fact, you can even go paler with your choice of lipstick as long as you put proper emphasis on the eyes. Try eyelash extensions/weaves which will last you two to three months and will even cut your eye makeup time by some 10 minutes.

For nondrying nude lipstick, you may try Make Up For Ever in 443, Guerlain Envie de Beige, Revlon Nude Velvet, Smashbox Pale Pout, and Fashion 21 Colour Mood in Innocent Plum (Pink Beige for only P150).

Eyeliner/mascara options for those who do not want extensions. Mistine Pro Long Mascara, Avon Perfect Wear mascara, Lancome Flextencils and Maybelline XXLash.

For eyeliner, I use a skinny eyeliner brush and quality eye shadow for staying power and smear prevention. Shu Uemura browns, gray or black eye shadows are best for this, it can also fill in eyebrows.

Those who like pencils will love the glide and rich pigment of NARS, Shiseido, Shu Uemura and Lancome pencils.

2. Regarding foundation adjustment, those who have oily skin are jumping for joy by now as they get to keep the matte, fresh-finish longer. But those in their late 20s with normal to dry skin and lines are dismayed by the show of age as their foundation refuses to blend in and settles into fine lines, emphasizing the wrinkles.

Anti-aging

Use foundation with anti-aging treatment like La Mer Treatment Creme Foundation SPF 15 (P5,500). La Mer creams have miracle ingredients so you are actually treating your skin while looking pretty.

You may also try the Beautecontrol Secret Agent wrinkle deflector makeup primer (P550). It gives dull, dry skin a glow and diffuses the appearance of wrinkles.

Meanwhile, the Secret Agent Undercover makeup (P550) will camouflage pigmentation. Make Up For Ever Liquid Lift Foundation will check the early stages of skin sagging. Fanny Serrano Crème Mousse foundation (P375) provides ample coverage that blends but does not settle into fine lines and feels like nothing on.

3. For those who wear glasses, in order to prevent the old-maid or unapproachable-schoolmarm look, try deep-colored lipstick on. Women with glasses tend to disappear under the frames even if they are the right shape.

If you wear dark-colored or metallic frames, like black, gunmetal and tortoise shell, wear medium to deeper shades. Keep the makeup on the rest of the face minimal when you wear glasses as all you need is a raisin, rust, red, plum or brown velvet lipstick shade for your face to appear. The effect is actually sexy, like in those movies where the heroine takes off her glasses, yanks out her ponytail and looks really hot!

Choice lipsticks: Reds—Fashion 21 Colour Mood in Bad Apple (black red) or Wild Cherry (deep red), P150 each, Shu Uemura WN 292 (vampire red), Revlon Crushed Velvet Choco Lust (deep reddish brown), or Raisin Rage (mauve-plum).

Check out the Fashion 21 Colour Mood Lipsticks at Watson's. These are very reasonably priced at only P150. They have rich-pigmented, nondrying colors perfect for most skin tones.

If there is a shade you just want to try out for the season, buy cheap or reasonably priced lipstick and makeup. Don't waste money. If it is a shade you wear regularly and can finish up, go ahead and splurge on the luxurious brands.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com



Available at the following Nokia Stores nationwide: Greenbelt 1, Glorietta Digital Xchange, Tomas Morato, Festival Mall, SM City North Edsa, Gaisano Davao, Gateway Mall, Robinsons Manila, Robinsons Galleria, SM Davao, Tacloban City, Limketkai Center CDO, Alabang Town Center, SM Mall of Asia, Podium, Greenhills, SM City Cebu, SM Iloilo, SM Bacolod, Rockwell, Bonifacio High Street, Dagupan, Trinoma, SM Batangas

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DRAMATIC DEEP LIPS. Fashion 21 Bad Apple, Sweet Rasin; Shu Uemura WN 292, Fashion 21 Color Mood in Wild Cherry

Contributing Editors
Jenni Epperson
and Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

LIVESTYLE



Gear up!



Metrobank

Philcharter: Moving Forward

Over the last couple of years, the Insurance Industry experienced a softening as evidenced by a decreasing number of industry players, from 137 in 2005 to 95 in 2007. Despite industry challenges, Philippine Charter Insurance Corporation (PhilCharter) generated close to a billion in premium volume last year, placing it among the top non-life insurance companies in the Philippines.

Currently, its ownership structure stands with eighty percent owned by Metrobank and the remaining twenty percent owned by Sumitomo Ins. Co Ltd. The company has an authorized capital of P350 million, with total assets of P2.383 billion.

PhilCharter stands by its 47 years of commitment and responsibility to the various markets it serves. Its track record in claims settlement has earned the trust and respect of the industry and its growing number of customers.

PhilCharter takes a fresh perspective in the industry through market expansion and continuous product development. To bring in new customers, the company embarked on intensive product trainings for agents covering its network of 15 branches nationwide. To promote new products, the company engages in sales drives regularly. PhilCharter believes that in opening up new markets, it has to use fresh approaches in addressing the growing needs of its customers. Thus, it formed strategic product tie-ups and leveraged on partnerships with other members of the Metrobank Group including Metrobank Card Corporation, Orix Metro Leasing Corporation, and Philippine Savings Bank.

At the forefront of providing innovative products in its category, it is currently promoting Bayanang Pinoy Emergency Insurance, a special insurance package exclusively for Overseas Filipino Workers. It also introduced Global Travel Security a pioneering comprehensive insurance product for travelers. The company tailors its services for special market needs like Home Security, Business Security and Auto Security.

Offering convenience to policyholders, its branches are strategically located nationwide providing complete one-stop shop insurance services. Other channels to serve customers are also being developed. Soon, customers can also experience the benefits of online insurance services through its new website.

Recognizing that good people are important to a successful organization, PhilCharter values employee performance and productivity. It practices Kaizen, a productivity tool in the organization.

Above all, the trust and confidence of its policyholders are PhilCharter's foundation for strong performance and leadership. It will continue to work on its vision of being the company of choice, providing the best insurance solutions that exceed customer expectations.

The PhilCharter head office is located at ground and second floors, Skyland Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner Tindalo Street, Makati City. For inquiries, please call 580-6800 (connecting all departments). For sales, please call 580-8870, 580-6862, 580-6882 or for claims, call 580-6887; 580-6869. PhilCharter branches are located at Binondo, Quezon City, Kalookan, Alabang, Marikina, Calamba, Baguio, Tarlac, Naga, Davao, General Santos, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Bacolod, and Iloilo.

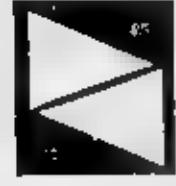


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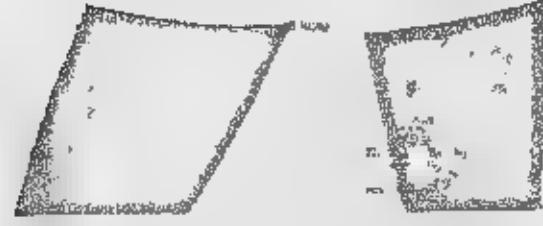
Wet-weather essentials

By Bianca Consunji
Contributor



Waterproof tote

Let it all out—in a clear plastic tote, that is. Since you wouldn't want your leather handbags to get drenched in the rain, bring a waterproof tote instead wherever you go, so you can store your things without worrying about getting your bag wet. Plastic tote from Plueys Manila



THREE WILL COME soft rains and the smell of the ground," wrote the poet Sara Teasdale. "And swallows circling with their shimmering sound; and frogs in the pools singing at night, and wild plum-trees in tremulous white."

While the rainy season conjures images of misty cities and romantic downpour, getting caught in a rain shower is enough to make you forget yourself and curse the miserable skies (or worse, if your favorite shoes and designer handbag are drenched as well).

There are some things you understandably have to give up with the onset of the rainy season: lightweight flip-flops, skimpy swimwear, and paper-thin white tops (unless you want to show off your underwear in a sudden downpour).

However, you don't have to exchange all your dresses and shorts for long-sleeved tops and jeans. With some tweaking, your regular wardrobe can be used all year round. All you have to do is add some rainy-day essentials to update your erstwhile summery frocks.

In fact, wearing dresses and shorts can sometimes be more practical than jeans when heading out into a rain shower. To avoid getting the hem of your pants wet, opt to wear shorts or dresses paired with Wellingtons and a coat; that way, you'll prevent ruining a pair of expensive shoes (since Wellingtons are maintenance-free) and getting

mud spattered on your legs as well.

For those who love the '60s Brit-pop look, the rainy season is the best time to get away with the short dress-and-boots ensemble.

However, when you wear dresses to go out, keep in mind that a mid-length coat is essential; you wouldn't want your dress to get assaulted by the rain. Also, the coat will provide enough warmth to compensate for the lack of material around your legs if you're not wearing pants.

Practicality is your best friend during the rainy season; make sure you always have an umbrella with you even on sun-scorched days, since you don't know if the weather will take a turn for the worse at the end of the day.

Choose a small, portable umbrella that you can easily stash in a large handbag. You can also opt to bring a raincoat with you to protect yourself from the showers, since an umbrella won't be able to cover you completely. That way, you'll be able to sail into school or work with a dry outfit while the rest of your colleagues will have to spend the good part of an hour trying to get themselves dry.

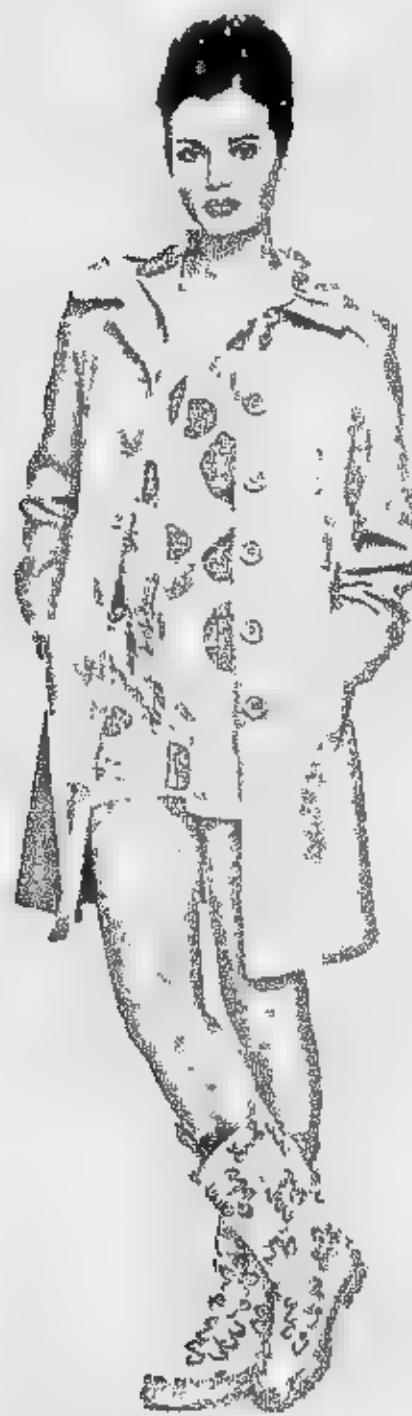
While you won't be able to wear suede or high-quality leather as often as you'd like during the rainy season, seize the opportunity to add some international influences and variety to your wardrobe. After all, in the Philippines, it isn't everyday that you can wear boots and a trench coat without getting laughed out of the country.

E-mail the author at bianca-consunji@yahoo.com



Cute umbrella

A generic black umbrella screams "geriatric lady." Pick an umbrella that's light, functional and, most importantly, fun. Bright colors and quirky designs will make you easy to spot in a crowd. White dress with black buttons, Rowena Ong (0915-3705731); rain boots by Plueys; umbrella, Rustan's Department Store



A pair of rain boots

Great for hurdling mud-filled puddles, Wellingtons, or Wellies for short, are rubber boots that first became popular in the UK. Wellies by Plueys, e-mail plueysmanila@gmail.com or contact 0917-8175843.



Raincoat

You usually see them on traffic policemen, but don't knock raincoats until you've tried them. They'll keep you dry when an umbrella fails. To avoid being mistaken for an MMA traffic guide, don't go for the bright-orange slickers. Pick a more subdued color such as blue, and pair it with bright colors for the rest of your wardrobe. Orange dress from Rowena Ong (0915-3705731); necklace, Yellow; blue raincoat, SM Department Store



Light trench coat

Want to feel like Ingrid Bergman from "Casablanca"? Then add a shot of instant style into your wardrobe with a short trench that can be worn with dresses and pants. Black trench coat, Jill by Rustan's; black cap, Squeezone; orange graphic dress, Yellow (0917-5770628)

FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 7, 2007

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE



FASHION FLASH FASHION FLASH

Shop for sight

IDEAL VISION HAS LAUNCHED WITH select Rotary Club chapters the Gift of Sight Program.

The program has been going on for decades now, conducting free eye clinics and providing free eyewear to indigents around the country.

This year, the program seeks to involve shoppers in the cause.

In celebration of the annual Sight Saving Month, Ideal Vision Center is donating one pair of eyeglasses (frames) to the Gift of Sight Project for any customer purchase of an eyewear product.

Participating Ideal Vision Stores include SM Megamall, Bacoor, Dasmarinas, Mall of Asia, Pampanga, Clark, Lucena, North Edsa, Fairview, Makati, Manila, Sucat, San Lazaro and Centerpoint; Ever Gotesco and Commonwealth; Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Festival Mall, and Ideal Vision Center, Waltermart Makati.

Shared
Vision
for a Clear
Future



Gift of Sight

Ideal
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The year of the dress

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A DRESS TO showcase femininity and womanliness. At SM, dresses are celebrated in the prettiest, most sophisticated and sensuous styles.

Classic silhouettes are given a fresh spin with the season's biggest trends—cinched waists, mini to midi lengths, subtle sheen and playful prints.

How to get best-dressed? Here are some tips from SM.

- Jersey. It's Coco Chanel redux as her iconic simple fluid jersey dresses return to flatter. Showing a lot of attention to ease of movement and comfort, these beige, navy and black pieces can go anywhere, day or night.

- Little black dress. Immortalized by the legendary Audrey Hepburn, the little black dress remains a timeless piece.

- Wrap. Diane von Furstenberg made quite an impact on the fashion world when she introduced her knitted jersey wrap dress in 1970s. Fashion remains wrapped up today in its fresh new variations for the modern woman—in jersey and shirtwaist versions, as well as in full-skirted satin outfits.

- Shift vs sheath. Hubert Givenchy designed the sack dress in the 1950s, sparking a trend that led to the sheath and later on waistless shift dresses. A decade later, Mary Quant began the mini shift dress revolution. The shift and the sheath are two of the most popular dress styles—both have sleek silhouettes and lots of sophistication.

What's the difference? While the shift clearly lacks waist definition, the sheath puts the spotlight firmly on the waist without bands or belts. These have been updated today with more defined shapes, allowing for slim and medium-size leather or fabric belts to cinch the waist.

- Baby-doll. This dress celebrates free spiritedness with its empire waist and shorter skirt. There's a little girl charm, an ingénue sexiness to its lines.

The dress collection is available at the Ladies Wear department of all SM stores. Available at SM Department Store.



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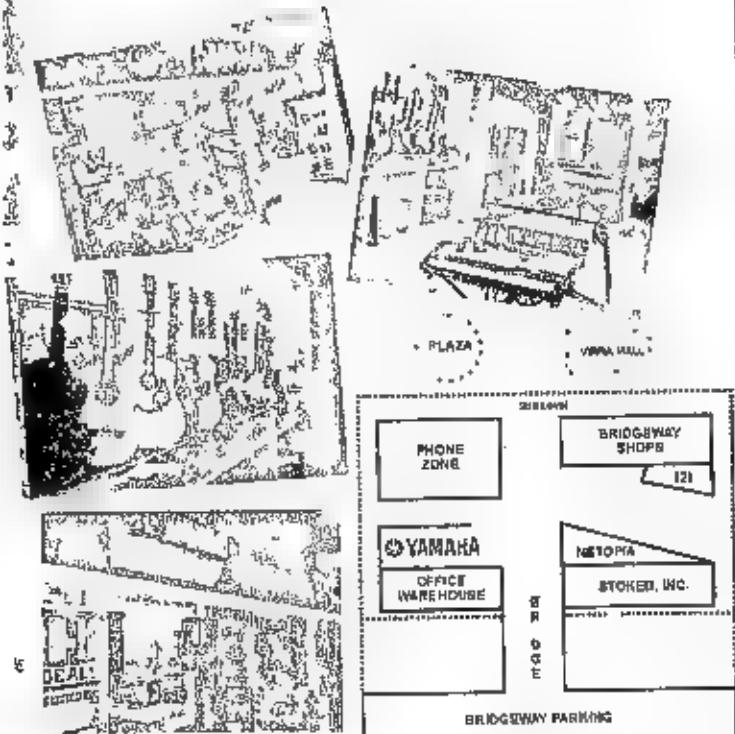
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**KC Concepcion,
the new Bayo girl**

TAKING HER PLACE IN LOCAL fashion history after the likes of Lea Salonga, Daniela Cojuangco, Kirchie Nadal and Barbie Almabis is multi-faceted celebrity KC Concepcion, who is Bayo's latest endorser.

KC comes in at the perfect time for the forward-thinking fashion label, which is about to categorize its clothes into three distinct lines: Young, Trendy and Classic looks, all set for this October.

Fresh from graduation in Paris, which she has called home for the past few years, KC is back for good with newfound energy for the many projects waiting for her in Manila. These projects go beyond commercial endorsements and photo shoots, since she is also actively involved in charity work. Yes, KC, the new Bayo girl, she grounds her celebrity status with substance.

Best of all, she is absolutely home-grown! Bayo is justifiably proud of its tradition of using fabulous Filipinas to endorse the brand.

JB



**FASHION
IBUZZ**
Hot, haute, hot news!

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TIME IS DIVINE AT
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Bulgari offers a new, exclusive line of precious watches for the women of the world. Inspired by the 1950s, Assioma D takes off from the successful introduction of the original Assioma Collection and exudes the characteristics of the contemporary woman it is designed for.

Each design encapsulates the glamour of the contemporary *diva*, the irresistible allure of a *donna* and the purity and exclusivity of *diamonds*. The new Assioma D line comes in yellow gold, rose gold and white gold versions that are embellished with diamond pavé. Three unique pieces in baguette-cut diamonds, sapphires and rubies complete the collection in an excellent interpretation of refined femininity.

Assioma D is now available in Manila. Visit Bulgari Boutiques, 6750 Shopping Arcade, 8933189 and Greenbelt 4, 7285061 and Bulgari Watchcorners, Rustan's Makati, SilverVault, 8104663, Rustan's Tower, SilverVault, 6372173 and Rustan's Alabang Town Center, 8091364.

Medium size (31mm), pink gold case set with round brilliant cut diamonds and pink gold bracelet. Pink gold crown set with a rose cut diamond, black dial.



Medium size (31mm), white gold case and bracelet set with round brilliant cut diamonds. White gold crown set with a rose cut diamond, with a dial decorated by raised curved decoration.



Medium size (31mm), yellow gold case and bracelet set with round brilliant cut diamonds. Yellow gold crown set with a rose cut diamond, with a dial decorated by raised curved decoration.



Medium size (31mm), yellow gold case and bracelet. White enamel dial enriched by raised curved decoration.



LIFESTYLE FASHION

Modern masters

For close to four decades now, Auggie Cordero's supremely confident, romantic but contemporary designs have dominated Philippine fashion.

Conclusion

WE PRESENT AUGGIE Cordero, our fourth and final choice as one of the country's modern masters. Much has been said about him and his designs, especially since he had just concluded his much publicized gala fashion show last month. But what really goes on this master's mind? Read on and find out.

Auggie Cordero, 'Supremo' of style

When and how did you get started in the fashion business?

I worked as an apprentice for Emma Crisologo for about two years. Then, I tried working for a fashion salon, but I didn't get paid. That was in the late sixties. I worked

for three months for one shop, then another three months for another shop. I would get disappointed and I would think na tama siyurong parentu ko, this is not a good business.

What's your educational background. Did you study fashion?

I was not allowed to study anything related to fashion. I studied commerce. Before, if your parents were CPAs, you had to be a CPA.

It was very traditional. And you can't just reason out. You can't tell them you have other dreams that you want to pursue.

When did you know that this is what you wanted to do?

When I was 7 years old, when I saw movies with costumes and princesses. At that time there were no research materials. There were no books on fashion, on costumes. Even when you go to the big libraries, wala naman anything to do with fashion.

My drawings then would be very small heads and bodies with a skirt as big as the bond paper. I realized that I was fascinated with these things because maybe I wanted to make clothes.

When I told my parents that I wanted to go into fine arts, they knew I was gearing towards design. It was what I wanted to do, but they told me that it was not a profession. Because they didn't know any better.

I wasn't even allowed to sketch. No dinner if I sketched. So, I would padlock my sketches in a copper chest. I would sketch the whole afternoon, then I would padlock it so they wouldn't know. All my allowance would go to bond paper and pencils, and colored pencils.

How long did you work for different fashion houses before you established your own?

One and a half years and then I didn't work for another year. I got disillusioned. I thought I couldn't survive with this kind of work. I didn't do anything or work for anybody for more than a year. But if it's your calling, you really want to do it. Kahi na walang pera, at least you'll be fulfilled.

So, I worked for another company. Ok naman but they asked me to sign a contract. I thought this was my big break so I signed it, but I didn't realize that they would control me for two years. I would work more than 12 hours a day.

But I learned how to go to Divisoria everyday, buy the tela, buy the thread, buy everything. And then I'd ask the cutter to cut and then in the afternoon, the client could already fit the dresses.

What's your design philosophy?

Along the way, you develop a certain style that you enhance and it's distinctively

First Metro Investment Corporation - A Catalyst for Growth of the Philippine Capital Markets

With a solid track record that reflects landmark deals for both the government and the private sector coupled with a history of exceptional financial performance, First Metro Investment Corporation has been recognized as a leading financial institution specializing in investment banking services.

As the investment banking arm of Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. (Metrobank), it holds the distinction of being the only publicly listed investment house among the 44 member institutions of the Investment House Association of the Philippines (IHAP).

Leadership for First Metro Investment transcends the traditional benchmarks of financial performance and market share. While it consistently exhibits sound fundamentals, a net income of Pph1.07 billion in 2006, return on equity of 14.3% and Pph39.3 billion in total assets, as well as a 49% share of the debt and equities market, the Company believes that effective leadership lies in its ability to develop capital markets through continuous product development.

First Metro Investment takes pride in establishing the retail bond market in the country, distributing Pph5.0 billion or 15% of the aggregate Pph379 billion retail treasury bonds (9 tranches). It has very recently established the privatization bonds as well as arranging the Ayala Corporation Pph7.0 billion retail bonds, the first widely-distributed retail bond by a private company. The success of these deals were proof of the Company's wide distribution network backed by the 557 Metrobank branches as well as its two marketing desks in Makati and Binondo that reaches out to institutional funds and private clients.

First Working with a consortium, Metro Investment paved the way for the country's first local currency hybrid capital and the first perpetual preferred shares listed on the stock exchange, in the form of the Ayala Preferreds. It was joint lead manager and joint bookrunner for the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Pph6.0 billion bonds issue, the first Triple A-rated peso-denominated supranational bond issuance.

First Metro Investment's industry-building efforts are validated by the numerous awards it continues to receive as Best Bond House and Best Investment Bank.

Empowering Performance



Asian Development Bank
Pph 3 billion
Fixed Rate Bonds
Joint Lead Manager
and Joint Bookrunner
May 2007



Republic of the Philippines
Pph 7.6 billion
Retail Treasury Bond Tranche 9
Joint Issue Manager
and Joint Issue Coordinator
August 2007



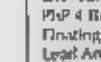
Metrobank
Pph 1.14 billion
Corporate Notes
Issue Manager
April 2007



ADM Capital
Pph 100 million
Corporate Notes
Issue Manager
April 2007



Ayala
Ayala Corporation
Pph 2 billion
Floating Rate Notes
Arranger
July 2007



SM Prime Holdings, Inc.
Pph 4 billion
Floating Rate Notes
Lead Arranger
and Joint Bookrunner
June 2007



PETRON
Petron Corporation
Pph 2 billion
Corporate Notes
Issue Manager
January 2007



PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY
Philippine Ports Authority
Pph 2 billion
Fixed Rate Corporate Notes
Joint Lead Manager
and Joint Bookrunner
April 2007



GMA
GMA Network
Pph 8.92 billion
Initial Public Offering
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45
years

Metrobank

Toyota Financial Gets Quasi-bank License

TOYOTA FINANCIAL Services Philippines Corporation (TFSPH), the nation's second largest financing company, recently secured approval from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to engage in quasi-banking functions.

TFSPH obtained a quasi-bank license from BSP as it celebrated its fifth year of productive operations. The BSP resumed issuing licenses of quasi-banking functions to investment houses and finance companies in February 2007 after seven years of suspension. TFSPH is the first institution to be granted a quasi-banking license since the freeze order was lifted.

In its bid to strengthen its position in the growing car financing market, TFSPH has also increased its capital by P500 million. The company received from its stockholders the total amount of P500 million representing the aggregate subscription price for the five million shares issued by the corporation out of its unissued capital stock.

TFSPH is 80% owned by Toyota Financial Services Corporation (TFSC), a leading financial services group based in Japan and wholly-owned by Toyota Motor Corporation. The Metrobank Group holds 40%, with Philippine Savings Bank (PSB) ownership at 25% and Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company (Metrobank) owning 15%. PSB is a subsidiary of Metrobank.

As part of Toyota's global network of sales finance companies, TFSPH services the customers of Toyota through financing and leasing services, as well as wholesale financing for Toyota dealers. TFSPH aims to become the foremost financing arm of choice for Toyota.

Established in August 2002, TFSPH has grown aggressively servicing over 17,000 customers from only 5,400 in 2005. The company posted net income of Pph8.7 million in fiscal year 2007.

MODERN E2

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LIFELONG STUDENT. "The moment the ego takes over your personality, you're not a human being anymore. *Ano ang pagayabang mo, damit lang naman ang gindgawa mo?*"

Modern masters

From page E1

yours. In the '70s, I discovered books, museums—that was the time when coffee-table books were available

I realized that there were so many things lacking in me. I felt so inadequate. I wasn't able to finish college so if I wanted to do this, I wanted a mind that would be able to absorb what's there to read and study.

That time, I realized that it's not just a matter of making clothes. You have to know what you're doing. You have to know the era, the history, the fabrics.

You have to learn and you have to be passionate about learning. You should be able to discuss things with anybody and know what you're talking about.

'You have to be passionate about learning. You should be able to discuss things with anybody and know what you're talking about'

In 1973 when I did a well-researched collection—Great Gatsby—at the Hyatt, I knew I was on the right path. With enough research, enough work, I knew I could make a go of my career. The clientele kept on increasing. I would meet society people, well-dressed women.

When you're young and you appear in the papers almost every week, it feels the ego. But you realize also along the way, that you have to be grounded, because the moment the ego takes over your personality, you're not a human being anymore.

Ano ang pagayabang mo, damit lang naman ang gindgawa mo?

I feel that humility is one part of our career that sometimes makes us overpowered.

It's easy to make

money, you meet so many important people, so these feed your ego.

But at the same time, you have to think that even if you're well-known now, you're successful now, what's going to happen when you go down?

You have to add and not subtract. You have to keep pace with the competition and at the same time, you have to know where you came from.

Why in your opinion, are you considered one of Manila's modern masters?

It's up to other people to say it because I, even now, still have to prove myself and show what I can do in the fashion industry. It's a never-ending process because the moment you become complacent, wala na. You have to be aware of what you can do and how you can improve your craft.

It's flattering to be emulated by young designers. But at the same time, you cannot let them down. Sometimes it's scary. The moment you become predictable, nawa-wala na.

Who are the designers you consider masters?

Inno, Joe... sayang, Gang, Cesar. We came from the old-school of designing. You have to learn to satisfy your client, you have to know their diverse lifestyles. You cannot just make a dress that's not within that lifestyle and not within their taste.

Even if a dress is beautiful but a client says that's not me or it does not suit me, it's no use. I'm

no fashion victim. You have to make it a point that when they wear your dress, they'll be proud. Then you edit also. They'll trust you to choose the shoes and jewelry.

How have you adapted to the changing times and fashions? How do you hone your craft?

You have to do research every time. Besides the visuals, you also have to read. Next week, I have a new book coming, "The History of Fashion Photography."

What else do you want to achieve in this industry?

More! Make more clothes that are different from what others are doing.

At this point in time, you're thinking of when to call it quits, when you have to say "I have to close shop, I don't want to work anymore." But you want to leave a legacy that they'll remember you by.

I really love what I do. If you don't love what you do and you're only after the money and the glamour, nothing will happen to you. I never liked the glamour of my profession.

How would you describe the local fashion industry?

There's none, in the strict sense of the word. But we have enough talent. Sayang. Can you imagine if there were so many things available here?

Before, Thailand was bale wala nung araw yan, badyu na badyu. Hong Kong was the only competition, but they were afraid of us. But now, even Viet-

nam and Cambodia are doing well.

What should be done to improve its condition?

The government is not clear if we can bring in materials. I thought the government would help the industry because (fashion) could be a money maker.

We need government support and leeway. Plus, definite rules about importation of materials.

It's cheaper to bring in materials from abroad, even if my baggage is overweight 120 kilos, because here the materials are 10 times the price. One thing I cannot understand in Manila is that they'll charge you more if you're a designer and charge you less if you're a dressmaker. They'll say, "mahal ka naman sumingil eh."

Actually abroad, like New York, you cannot enter any of the wholesale shops. Outside it says wholesale, trade only. So, if you're a designer, you register with them and you get as much as 50-70 percent discount.

What are the strengths of local designers?

Their minds, their creativity, and their resourcefulness. With the conditions, they become stronger.

Weaknesses?

They get easily dazzled by fame. Mahirap 'yon. If you get glowing reviews in the papers and all those hangers-on who say na ang galang mo, if you start believing all these things, that's your downfall. At the end

of the day, dapat ang isipin mo nagandahan sila sa damit ko Pero maganda ba talaga?

What makes you proud to be a Pinoy fashion designer?

I make Filipinos happy! When my bride cries because she's happy about her wedding gown, and she tells me "Auggie, na-fulfill mo ang fantasy ko," that makes me proud. It's simple, and yet you know you'll always be a part of their whole life because you've made their biggest moment, the happiest moment of their life. Those things are worth more than the money they pay you.

Would you have it any other way? Exchange all this for a simpler, more quiet existence?

I did that 20 years ago. I know the key to my happiness—a simple, non-complicated existence, all the kind words you get from people who respect you, with your dignity intact.

Auggie Cordero:
537 Alonso Street, Malate
Manila, tels. 5253997,
5251452

Photography Jun de Leon
Sittings Editor Millet Arzaga
Grooming Patrick Rosas
Photo Assistant Aldrin Convocar,
Ramon Ty, Joseph Grego/Wings
Photography
Image Manipulation Adan
Convocar/Wings Photography
Auggie Cordero's Prop SONY
Bravia TV (Special Thanks To Kata
Digno/SONY)

But what makes a garment Auggie Cordero? What are those elements?

Feminine, romantic, very womanly. I don't like clothes that would overpower a person. I want clothes that would complement the one wearing the clothes. I want it very feminine, lady-like.

What was the defining moment in your career?



Say aloha to Moana



Sun-drenched Fighting Eel

From page E4

end, the chain would circle the world 50 times! Talk about taking over the world, one swimsuit at a time.

Hot swimwear

Still on sun-drenched Brazil, CIA Maritima is the largest beachwear production company in Brazil. Considered the hottest and most sought after swimwear line in that country, CIA Maritima was launched by Benny Rosset in 1990.

In CIA Maritima, Rosset created a unique marriage of technology and style, with detailed handwork incorporated into the fabrics, coupled with fine embroidery, crystal beading and intricate lace. The brand is designed as a high-end boutique collection with very select distribution.

The swimwear collection, which has been worn by the likes of Gisele Bundchen and Naomi Campbell, is undoubtedly the most sophisticated to hit the sultry beaches of Brazil.

From LA, Moana picked up something for all T-shirt junkies. LAMade tees are down-home comfortable yet stylish enough for a night out. LAMade's versatile selection

of tops and dresses always come with distinct details that make them easy to wear yet very fashionable: reverse seams, sheared necklines and trapeze bodies.

From the island that glorifies the ultimate beach lifestyle, Hawaii, comes Fighting Eel, a creation of designers Roni Bennett and Lan Chung. They have combined their distinct personal styles and their undeniable love for fashion and dream vacations to create Fighting Eel.

Created in 2003, Fighting Eel clothes can now be found in hundreds of boutiques throughout the United States. The line is a blend of sexy and simple, with uncomplicated yet feminine dresses and tops that are surprisingly versatile, easily worn with either high heels or flip-flops.

Beach bums, lay out your terry cloth towels for Moana. Rain or shine, we can now all enjoy eternal sunshine in our spotless minds.

Moana is at G/F, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Makati.

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

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Violets are cool CIA Maritima



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Say aloha to Moana

This new boutique in Rockwell celebrates summer all-year round with international brands that embody fun-filled holidays and endless sun.

THE RAINY SEASON ALWAYS SIGNALS the introduction of some funky-sounding female names like "Chedeng" or "Sepat," names that have recently taken us by storm, literally.

But just because it's been wet, wet, wet outside doesn't mean that our dreams of summer have to be dampened. Certainly not with the debut of a friendlier, summery alternative named Moana. Read fun, fun, fun!

"Moana" is Hawaiian for "open ocean," referring to the deep blue part of the ocean. It's also the name of a new boutique in Rockwell that celebrates summer all-year round. Yes, even if the floods are knee-high in the city!

The store was created in the

spirit of Hawaii's carefree and sun-worshipping lifestyle, which is something that us tropical types can absolutely relate to. It's that laid-back, breezy and easygoing style that extends from the coastline to the city, storm or sunshine.

The different brands from all over the world that Moana carries in its boutique exemplify that spirit, including Havaianas, LA Made, CIA Maritime and Fighting Eel. From Brazil and Hawaii to LA and, of course, the Philippines, each label embodies a love for holidays and endless summer.

The most recognizable brand carried by Moana is, of course, Havaianas, which has become synonymous with flip-flops. In fact, you can't walk anywhere nowadays without spotting the colorful Brazilian slippers on someone's feet, whether it's in the streets of Makati or on White Beach in Boracay.

Havaianas actually means "Hawaianas" in Portuguese. Its inspiration came from the Zori, a Japanese-style sandal. The ultra-comfy, butter-soft flip-flops are fashioned out of a 42-year-old secret rubber formula.

A fun fact: Since it was launched in 1962, over 2.2 billion pairs of Havaianas have been produced and sold throughout the world! If they were laid out from end to

Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson

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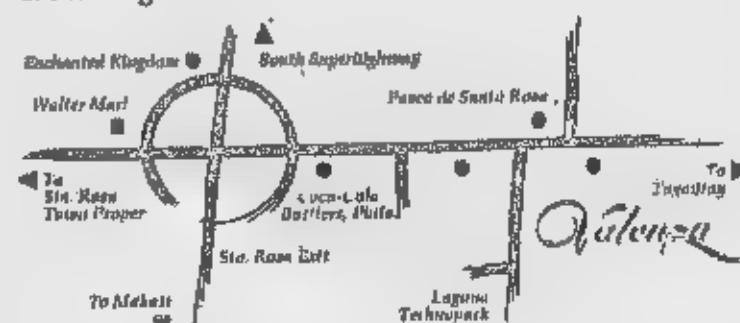
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Philippine fashion design is at its competitive best again

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Cebu vs Manila designers in fashion fest

CEBU DESIGNERS have come into their own while Metro Manila designers continue to forge their individual identities and innovations. Together, they show that Philippine fashion is at its competitive best again—which is timely in this globalized era.

Cebu recently showcased the solid combination of local and Manila designs when the Waterfront Hotels and Casinos staged its annual Style Watch three nights of fashion collections labored over by Waterfront general manager Marco Protacio.

It's futile to ask who is better—the Cebu or Manila designers—because both continue to build on their unique strengths. What is notable is how each designer, Cebuano or Metro Manilan, exudes confidence in their own style and skills, while daring to tread the risky ground of experimentation.

Cebu and Manila make for an exciting contest in fashion design.

The first show on Aug. 24 of Samsung Style Watch featured the collections of Clothes for Life, a broad association of 14 Cebu designers headlined by 2007's toast of the town, Cary Santiago, who continued his trademark curvilinear design with some twist. The other designers of diverse styles and skills were Salvador Malato, Harley Ruedas, Ren Manabat, Joy Bernaldez, Protacio Empaces, Marichu Tan, Edwin Ao, Edwin Alba, Humber-

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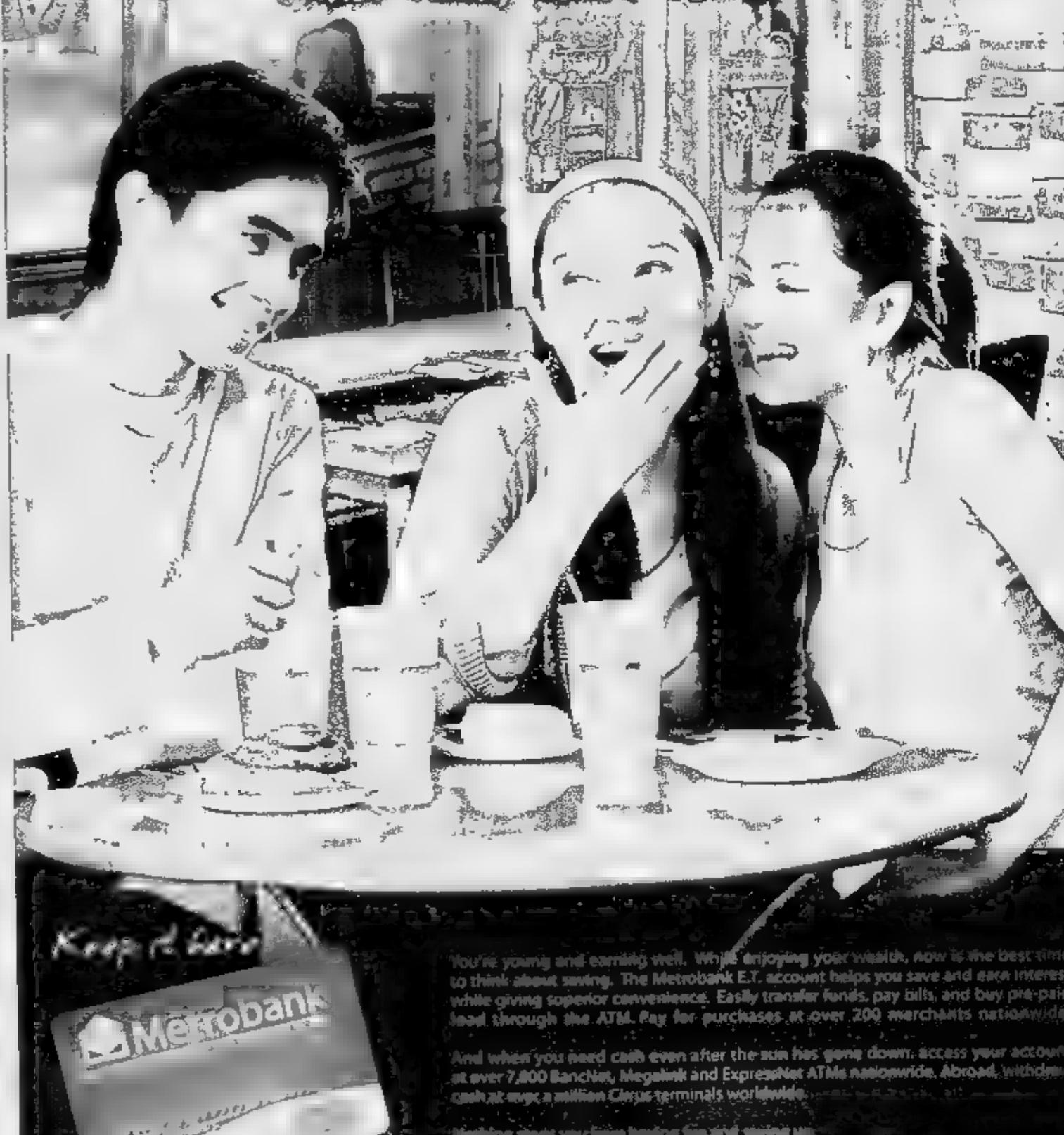
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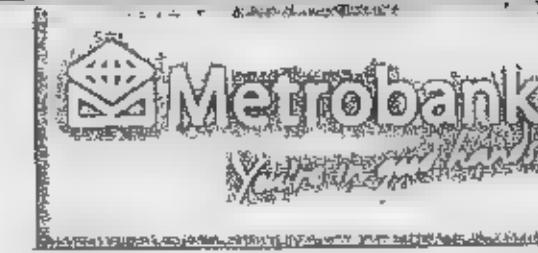
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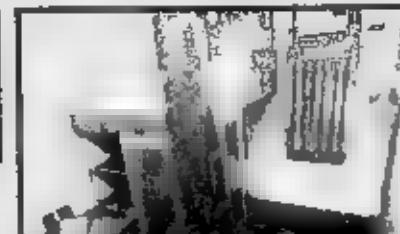
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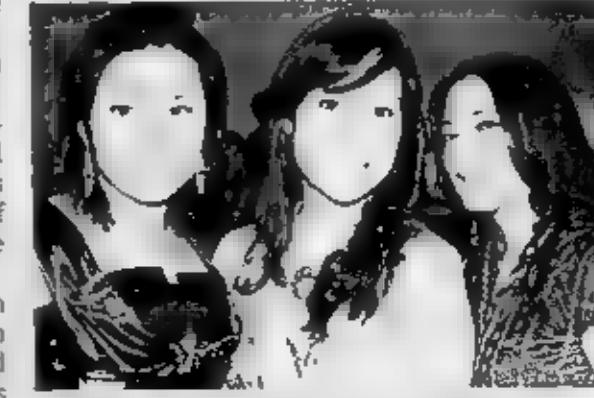


SAMSUNG'S Pen Roque, Metro Magazine's Thelma San Juan, socialite Elvira Luym, Waterfront Hotel's Lirupe-Aw and Mel Cuevas

High fashion in South's



AMPARITO Lhuillier, Miriquita Yeung and Rose Hennessy



KAYE Luym, Cheryl Carcel and Anne Manubag



CHEZKA Martinez, Stanley Yap and ABS-CBN's Ernie Lopez



QUEENIE Aman, Bunny Ludo and Joseph Gonzales



GINGER Celso, Sarita Pimentel and Renee Villasin



EPOL and Tieno Tenney



PACO and Monique Jarque



DENNIS Lustico, Randy Ortiz, Jojo Lloren, Waterfront Hotel's Marco Protacio, Jing Monis and Anthony Nocom

Cebu vs Manila designers...

From page F1

to Villegas, Wendell Quisido, Ray Kuam, Bryan Aloquin and Alan Fonte.

The second night was the Cebu leg of the Samsung Metrowear, and it featured the Fashion Council of Cebu, which clearly left the audience in awe. The impressive collections displayed high standards of creativity.

Arcy Gayatin was a favorite with her play of soft and structured fabrics in black and champagne. Too good to resist was her organza champagne tent dress with black geometric cutouts. It was clean, figure-enhancing, yet cutting-edge. Smartly, she littered her organza evening wear, short or long—in stark yet flowing silhouettes—with monochromatic geometric cutouts. Sheer simplicity at its best.

In your face

If Arcy's were low-key elegance, Jun Escario's clothes were in-your-face '40s drama, with the models' prominent curls gelled to the scalp. Influences poured in—Indian, Tibetan, African, Japanese—yet Escario managed the heavy traffic of styles. He fused adeptly the Indian sari with the Japanese kimono fabric. He knew how to use black to set off gold beading or metallic accent.

Philip Rodriguez had a captive audience in women, like he has every time, mainly because his clothes are beautiful, feminine, classic, with near workmanship. He must be Cebu's Valentino.

Seeing his collections over the years, I've come to delineate his style. He speaks in colors no woman can resist, in fine fabrics such as chiffon and silk, while adding a twist. For some time, it was his "pastillas" trimmings—strips of fabrics cut like the trimmings of pastillas and sewn into various shapes; the silhouette could be either voluminous and layered or soft and figure-hugging.

This pastillas imagery has been Philip's trademark and we wouldn't

be surprised if it has influenced the likes of Cary Santiago, who's now drawing an audience for strong imagery.

At Style Watch, Philip used bright jewel colors in either silk chiffon or organza. The twist, this time, was an embellishment inspired by the paper parol—fabrics cut into concave patterns resembling parol trimmings and used to trim the hem or the sleeves.

This technique was shown to full advantage the following night, in the "Sposabella"—the bridal show of Cebu and Manila designers. Philip's wedding gowns used such patterns as accents, impressing even a Manila designer who compared them to pages of a book unfolding.

Oj Hofer's clothes stood out for their classic simplicity—clever draping of jersey, tulle, even velvet. Obviously, this fashion upstart of many years ago has evolved. His style is now clearly defined.

Albert Arriba stood out for his appliqués and electric pleating. In aqua, his clothes became visual all the more.

Minnie Yiviente showed exquisite evening wear few women would find hard to ignore—salmon silk satin sheath gown, luscious yellow taffeta dress with puff sleeves and balloon skirt, pinkish silver layered dress with sheer bodice. Felix Yu's gowns were very rich, including a brown draped sarong skirt. They were clearly meant for busy high-so-ciety hostesses.

Best gowns and suits

"Sposabella" on the last night had the best wedding gowns and groom suits we've seen in recent years. Manila's designers gave it their all. We loved Patrice Diaz's abaca cotton gowns, either one-shouldered or empire-cut

Vittorio was trademark Vittorio—designer Vic Barba never overplays. Only he could do a minimalist take on a Byzantine gown, this time in cream brocade. Ivarius

Iki Aseron showed how best he could do structure—corset bone detailing in the cleanest shift, or in serpentine.

Rhett Eala's gown bore the shimmer of glitz and glamour. His fitted bodice of matte silver sequins was inspired by the washed-out color of Venice and set off a dramatic tulle skirt.

Dennis Lustico had a winner in an ivory silk chiffon column gown with wide band on the bodice, its solid presence a foil to soft chiffon. Its draping at the back transformed into a floating train. Dennis is a master of silhouette and construction.

Jojie Lloren had an off-shoulder serpentine gown in off-white chantilly lace and a duchesse satin gown with bubbled hem. Jojie is so sure of his style identity that he saw no need to upstage.

Randy Ortiz was clearly in a romantic mood—"tagdadalaga na manan," as he put it. His silk taffeta with volume sleeves and bustle at the back, or his serpentine gown with rosette embroidery, were so romantic.

Anthony Nocom showed what we were his best groom suits in recent years—they were cut close to the body, neatly structured and had fine finish. A bride should really talk her groom into such body-defining suit, for a change, so grooms don't end up looking either corporate or too fancy on their wedding day.

Rajo Laurel had skin-baring gowns of reembroidered Belgian lace. With "destination wedding" in mind, he had another gown of silk chiffon and nylon garters, with sweetheart neckline.

JC Buendia had a draped dress with Mikado silk coat encrusted with pearls—a masterpiece of tailoring and our native wealth, the pearl. The coat weighed about 15 lbs.

Of course, Monique Lhuillier sent her signature pieces—one of them a masterpiece of volume and draping, another a sexy gown of exquisite lace.

Philip's trademark and we wouldn't



Oj Hofer

PHILIP Rodriguez

RHETT Eala

JC Buendia

WIT

BATT

AN E

Man

Arc

Photos

using Ke

THE STAR CITY OF THE SOUTH HAD a super busy weekend. The Waterfront Hotel and Casino presented Samsung Style Watch for three days, palanggas. It was a smashingly successful whopper.

Samsung Style Watch was a gutsy series of runway shows that had hot namedippable fashion names from the country and from other countries all showing off their creations, dahlings.

Designers from Manila like Rhett Eala, Monique Lhuillier, Oj Hofer, Randy Ortiz and Dennis Lustico participated. From Cebu were the likes of Philip Rodriguez, Harley Ruedas, Edwin Ao, Joy Bernaldez and Wendell Quisido.

On the first night, there were fun cocktails. It had the waiters dashing around, serving wine and booze, while the chic invitees hanged around the excellent spread. There was a steady stream of heavy cocktail finger food, as guests people-watched Cebu's who's-who, *patanggas*.

Naturellement, Waterfront's hottest hotshots entertained the guests, such as el simpatico, general manager Marco Protacio, who is definitely the hotel's mega-asset, stylish Kaye G. Luym, the marketing communications manager for food and beverage, vivacious Anne Manubag and adorable Jenine del Prado. They made sure the tons of guests were happy. We sure were, *palanggas*.

During cocktails, Jenine asked ABS-CBN Publishing's Ernie Lopez who was taking the place of Thelma Sison-San Juan, the general manager and editorial director of the publishing group. He answered, "There's no one who can ever take her place." And *said Amen* to that!

This popular hotel is conveniently located in the center of the city and is within easy access to key business areas. It has shuttle service almost all day long to popular commercial districts and shopping malls. It's also only 30 minutes away from Mactan International Airport.

Got a tour of the hotel and found out it has 561 eye-catching luxurious rooms and newly renovated executive suites. The hotel's motto, "Bring some splendor to your slumber," is so right. The bed most slept on was the posh "Slumber Splendor Bed," dahlings; it is made of a premium pillow top and mattress set, with 300 thread-count cotton duvet. For a dash of class, it has six goose down pillows, which is also available in all the deluxe rooms and suites.

Great dining

After each show, we would have lunch and dinner at the hotel's awesome restaurants, such as La Gondola, where you dig into Italian chef Vito Froio's excellent dishes; Muzu, which offers the best Japanese cuisine whipped up by the talented Japanese chef Ken Imamura, and the tres famous Chinese restaurant, Ti Gów, where the brilliant Chinese chef Low Yuen Kong lords over the kitchen. I'll even have to say, it's one of the best in Cebu, dahlings. Undoubtedly where we'd all dash to breakfast and lunch because it has a superb choice of international cuisines, served on buffet tables.

The grand gala evening saw the fabulous Sposabella Bridal Show, which had the huge ballroom of the hotel packed with over 1,000 awesome guests.

My favorites were the stunning bride gown of Oj Hofer and that by Monique Lhuillier, which had tons in the audience standing up and taking photos of it with their cameras and cell phones.

Also among the most photographed bride



LANI Osmeña, Joy Onglato with daughter Danessa O., and Shien Yu



GINA Osmeña and Manny Osmeña



JANE Ong with mal



LOUIE Cruz and James Jao



TERESIN Mendezona, Rosebud Sala, Annabelle Luym and Bernie Abotiz



MARISSA Ferman with fab couple Maricar and Alfred Xeres Burgos Jr.



CHINESE Chef—Tin Gow, Low Yuen Kong



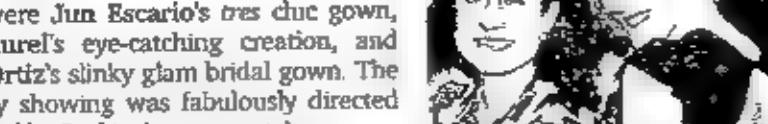
JAPANESE Chef—Mizu Ken Immura



BUSINESS tycoon Michel Lhuillier with Alfred Xeres Burgos of Monterrazas de Cebu



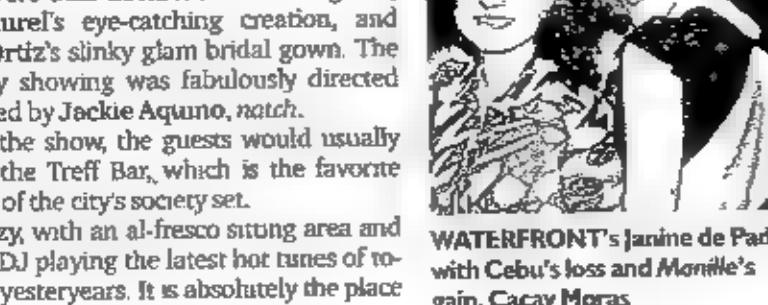
PAM Osmeña with Pazu Eteve, Man-man and May Osmeña



gowns were Jun Escario's tres chic gown, Rajo Laurel's eye-catching creation, and Randy Ortiz's slinky glam bridal gown. The three-day showing was fabulously directed and staged by Jackie Aquino, natch.

Après the show, the guests would usually flock to the Treff Bar, which is the favorite hangout of the city's society set.

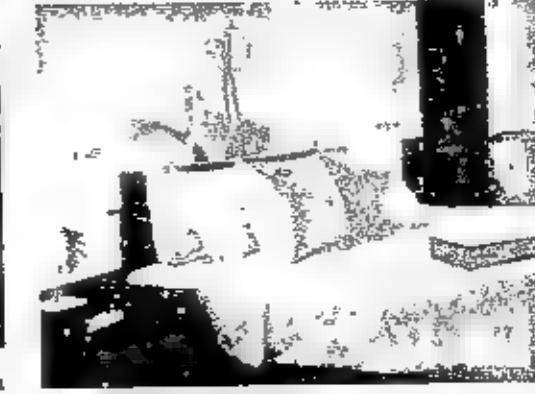
It's cozy, with an al-fresco sitting area and the best DJ playing the latest hot tunes of today and yesteryears. It is absolutely the place



WATERFRONT's Janine de Padua with Cebu's loss and Monile's gain, Cacay Moras



THE HOTEL'S popular Italian Restaurant, La Gondola



WATERFRONT Hotel's posh Slumber Splendor Bed



ITALIAN Chef—La Gondola: Vito Froio



PASTRY Chef Gabriel Garcia



EXECUTIVE Chef Anders Hallden

to be seen in

As for shopping palanggas, there's a Duty Free outlet in the hotel. Not bad, huh!

At the end of the three-day Samsung Style Watch at the Waterfront Hotel, the man who conceptualized the whole thing was all smiles. Also all smiles was the woman whose brainchild, the Merrowear fashion series, had become a tremendous happening for a couple of years now in Cagayan de Oro and Cebu. They were none other than the Waterfront's GM Marco Protacio and ABS-CBN Publishing's Thelma Sison-San Juan, who is moving on and opening another exciting chapter of her colorful life, palanggas.

For more info on Waterfront, call marketing manager, Kaye Luym, and Renne Vilas in at 2326888 loc. 8032, or e-mail k.luym@waterfronthotels.net

It's time to avoid Trans Fat!

It's time to get healthy! It's time to be aware that some of the most common food you eat have something very bad for you: Trans fat.

What is Trans Fat?
There are four kinds of fats: monounsaturated fat,

polyunsaturated fat, saturated fat, and Trans Fat. Monounsaturated fat and polyunsaturated fat are the "good" fats. Saturated fat is the "bad" fat people have long been warned to avoid. Trans Fat, however, is the worst kind of fat.

Proven Unhealthy
From the World Health Organization to the U.S. Food and

Drug Authority, there have been many recent warnings about the health problems Trans Fat can cause. In an article published in the New England Journal of Medicine on April 13, 2006, the researchers detail evidence linking Trans Fat consumption to increased risk of coronary heart disease, sudden cardiac death, and diabetes. Trans Fat

from partially hydrogenated oils have harmful effects on blood lipids, promote inflammation, and cause blood-vessel abnormalities, all of which are risk factors for heart disease.

Common Foods with Trans Fat
The majority of Trans Fat can be found in snack foods, crackers, fried fast food, doughnuts, and other

processed foods made with or fried in partially hydrogenated oils.

Go for Zero Trans Fat
Look for products that say they are "Zero Trans Fat", like Nagaraya Cracker Nuts. Unlike other snack foods that are fried in partially hydrogenated fat, Nagaraya is roasted. This longtime favorite snack guarantees only crunchy goodness and nutrition, with none of the bad Trans Fat.

Time to go for Zero Trans Fat & Zero Cholesterol.

NAGARAYA

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Anna Bayle: On success and the 'X-Factor'

WHAT IS THE "X-FACTOR"?

In the hit reality TV show "Be Bench Model Search," the term comes up almost every week.

The first TV reality search of its kind, "Be Bench Model" aims to find the next big endorser for the lube, Bench.

Supermodel Anna Bayle has flown in from New York to mentor the remaining participants in the search and conduct a special seminar on modeling.

She will show the finalists what it takes to be a supermodel on Sept. 9, 10:30 p.m., over at ABS-CBN.

Bayle attributes the "X-Factor" to desire.

"If you do want to be a star, you will have the aura of a star. I succeeded because I wanted it most—because I had desire," she says.

Bayle first shot to fame in the 1980s as one of the world's top models, after only two years in the business.

"I always liken the so-called X-Factor to that circle around that person—what you may call aura—that says 'look at me.' Some people are genetically blessed, but without desire, inner beauty, inner star quality, the looks will amount to nothing. X-Factor is all about desire," says Bayle.

In her prime, Bayle stood out in a sea of blondes, brunettes and redheads, not to mention the blue-green- and hazel-eyed.

"It was both a liability and an asset," she says about looking different. "But with everything, there are always pros and cons. You just have to make the most out of the situation."

Bayle landed high-profile jobs and soon became one of the highest paid models of her time, gracing international campaigns for major fashion brands and being photographed by top lensmen, including the late Helmut Newton.

Today, she is busy producing her show, "The Next Anna Bayle," and writing for fashion sites, including her own blog, annabayle.com. She still models occasionally for select projects.

Bayle says those aspiring to become models should realize that modeling, though often perceived as glamorous, is hard work.

"It's a lot like going to school. You have to be on time, professional, and in great form, with very good skin and hair. Caring for your body is another form of discipline all



The first Filipina supermodel flies in from her home base in New York to impart modeling and life lessons to the remaining participants of the 'Be Bench Model Search.'



models should have."

The model should always aim to please, says Bayle. She advises all models to have grace, which, when manifested in shoots, easily translates to great pictures.

"A model's movements on the runway or a photo shoot must be fluid," she points out. "Fluid movements, like walking elegantly on a catwalk, capture the eye of the audience. It's also easier for the photographers to shoot a model with fluidity because they can anticipate your next move."

"This concept is the same in a photo shoot. Jerky movements are a gamble because the shot may or may not turn out to

be great," she continues. "A photo shoot is an exercise in control. A model who has graceful movements in front of the camera making graceful lines with her body, makes it so much easier for the photographer to capture a great picture."

Getting the perfect shot, perfecting angles, and becoming a real model takes time and a lot of practice.

Winners of the "Be Bench Model Search" Grand Finals will each receive cash prizes, modeling contracts with Bench, management contracts with ABS-CBN, and two two-bedroom house-and-unit units at St. Monique Valais courtesy of Globe Asia Unique Realty Holdings Corp.



MARE Collection



LATIN Lover Collection

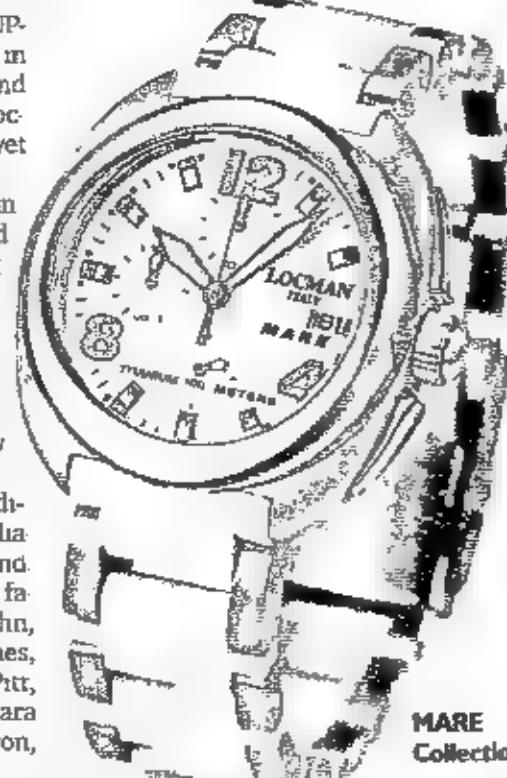
Telling time, the Italian way

LOCMAN WATCHES CATER TO UP-market fashion-conscious consumers in search of new, exclusive products and avant-garde designer accessories. Locman stands well away from tradition yet bears top-quality handmade finishing.

Founded by Marco Mantovani in 1986, Locman Italy first designed watches for other brands before taking off on its own. Based in Tuscany on the Island of Elba, the Locman Group represents the most important enterprise of the Italian watch-making industry. Locman also has a network of offices in Florence, Milan and New York.

The company was the first to place diamonds on aluminum, igniting the diamond-embellished sports watch trend. Locman Collections are favored by famous celebrities such as Sir Elton John, Oprah Winfrey, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Madonna, Michael Jordan, Brad Pitt, Elizabeth Taylor, Sharon Stone, Barbara Walters, Janet Jackson and Paris Hilton, to name a few.

Locman watches are also worn by sports icons such as David Beckham and Juventus' head coach Fabio Capello. During the 2002 Nato-Russia Summit held in Rome, Locman watches were chosen by Italy's Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi as gifts for the delegates. United States



MARE Collection

President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair received Locman Aluminum Sports watches.

Get these spectacular timepieces at Rafael Jewellery, 2/L EDSA Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Call 6363398.



HANNAH SISON



JP ERVAS

Season of eye-catchers

CRIS LOMOTAN AND BAMBA Jose emerged winners of Style Eye Catchers Model Search Grand Finals Season 1 held at Glorietta 3 Park recently.

Ten males and 10 females competed in swimwear, casuals and formal wear in front of a special panel of judges that included fashion director Robby Carmona, Style Magazine editor Jonas Gruet, MTV Fashionista Best Model of the World winner Raphael Kiefer, L'Oréal Paris' chief makeup artist Jigs Mayuga, comedian/fashionista I.C. Mendoza, actress Alessandra de Rossi,

Century Tuna Superbodz 2007 winner Patty Ortega and The Agencie president Laura Sanchez.

The search was sponsored by Style Magazine, United Colors of Benetton, Sisley, Gas, The Agencie, The Casting Library, Antonov, GSM Blue, L'Oréal Professional, Eclipse 24/7, Make Up For Ever, Glorietta Ayala Malls, Rob Altamirano Photography, Monster Radio RX 93.1, and Hit 99.5 FM.

For details on how to join Season 2, visit Style's website, www.styleonefashion.multiply.com.



JO-AN DOROTHEO

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

SMS feedback: Inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph



Iya, very Filipina

By Marinel R. Cruz

DESPITE HAVING GROWN up in Australia, actress-TV host Iya Villania insists that she is "very Filipino-fashioned" when it comes to love.

At 21, Iya says she is not keen either on living in or on tying the knot anytime soon with TV host Drew Arellano, 27, her boyfriend of three years.

"I'm too young. I still have a lot to learn and so much to do," Iya told INQUIRER Entertainment over lunch last week. "I may have lived in Australia but it was in Blacktown, a conservative community where lots of Filipinos live."

Iya's dad and two sisters are based in Australia, her mom chose to join her here.

Dean's lister

Apart from her show biz commitments, Iya is busy studying Psychology at De La Salle University, where she's been on the dean's list for the last two terms.

"I'm fascinated with the power of the human mind. It intrigues me," Iya says.

She's keenly interested in subjects like clinical, abnormal and social psychology. "I was amazed to discover all these extreme mental illnesses. I even took time to research on the condition called dissociative identity disorder (DID)."

Iya is one of the busiest ABS-CBN stars. Aside from being MYX Music Channel's resident VJ, she is also a co-host of the Sunday noontime show "ASAP" and the celebrity dance program "U Can Dance" with Derek Ramsay. Iya shares hosting chores with Chesca Garcia and Angel Aquino in Studio 23's magazine/lifestyle show "Us Girls."

This month, Iya will be seen in "Mars Ravelo's Lastikman," as Yellena, lead actor Rhong Navarro's lady love.



SHEDDING CLOTHES, ETC.

ALESSANDRA de Rossi is shedding some of her personal possessions, including clothes, via an online celebrity auction for charity starting Sept. 10. "I'm glad my personal items will help other people," the TV-film actress says. The items include a watch, accessories, shoes and an unused ice cream maker. All the items will be posted on the website www.auction.ph from Sept. 10-24.



Metrobank

First Metro Travel offers full range travel services

The past couple of years have been challenging for the Philippines travel industry. For the past five years, the number of inbound visitors has languished around the 2 million mark - far fewer than some of its competitors in Southeast Asia. In 2002, for example Malaysia and Thailand welcomed 24 million travelers.

Despite the dip in tourist numbers, one travel agency, First Metro Travel has been constantly developing products and services to cater to the growing needs of the traveling public. Among its travel services being consistently offered to its customers are the Corporate Travel Management that handles the full travel requirements of corporate accounts. Foreign & Domestic Leisure Travel that provide individual group tour packages, and Travel Documentation that provide assistance and various types of travel documentation requirements. First Metro Travel put up branches in Ortigas Center, Los Baños, Laguna and Cebu City to make the availability of its services more accessible.

Sixty percent of First Metro Travel is owned by Metrobank, the country's largest bank in terms of resources.

To get around the world's busiest business hubs, you need to go with the corporate travel specialist.

Corporate Travel Management

Handles the full travel requirements of corporate accounts.

Foreign & Domestic Leisure Travel

Packages individual group tours best suited for your leisure travel needs.

Travel Documentation

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Metrobank Trading Stocks Online through www.firstmetrosec.com.ph

Late last year, First Metro Securities launched its online trading system, highlighting its user-friendly interface with Metrobankdirect online banking.

The company envisioned the system to be an additional service for the few internet savvy clients interested in managing their own investments and trading online.

Almost a year into the launch, the company reports overwhelming demand, with new enrollments streaming in and retail volumes expanding by the day.

Why are investors going online and flocking to www.firstmetrosec.com.ph?

First of all, the stock market is hot. Internet usage is expanding. And online trading is empowering.

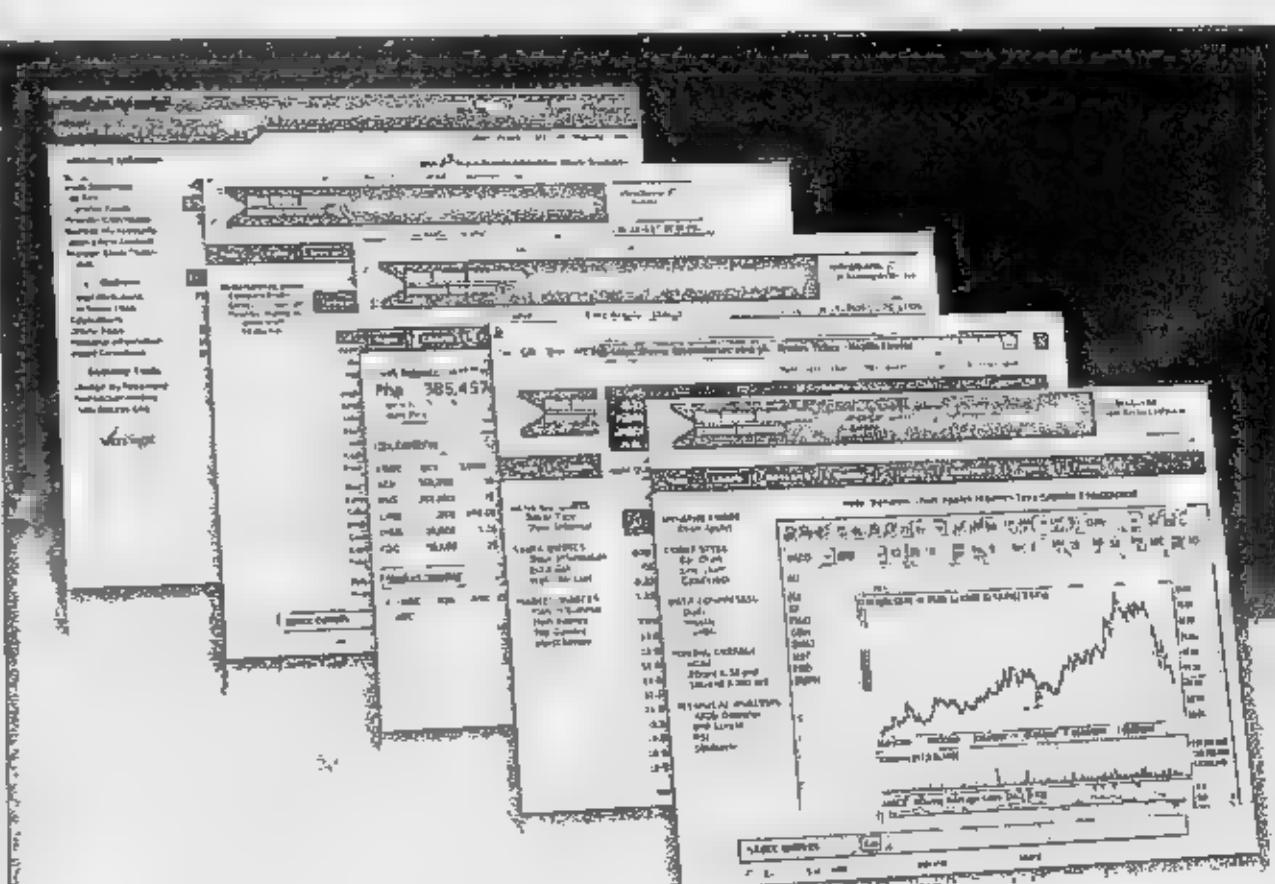
It provides clients with the same, if not more stock information, than a broker on the trading floor. Prices are displayed practically as quickly as on the trading floor screens.

The typical First Metro Securities online client is 37 years old, male, internet literate, and with the skills, interest and aptitude to personally take charge of his own stock market investments.

The most senior client is 72 years old and female. The youngest so far is 20. Clients are based as far away as Canada and Riyadh. They come from Bahrain, Hong Kong, Singapore, Leyte and Pagadian.

The allure of First Metro Securities is multi-faceted. The company is a member of the Metrobank Group and makes a special effort to put group resources to good use for the benefit of its clients. It has been profitable every year since inception in 1994.

First Metro Securities launched a clean and simple-to-use interface, which enables clients to view price information and trade quickly.



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SPIN

Acel's debut album tests digital downloading market

NUGEN MUSIC, A SUB-LABEL OF ABS-CBN's Star Records, is hyping its newly signed talent, singer-songwriter Acel (for-

What it means is that Acel's debut album,

"Silver Lining." is available only through digital downloads.

Apparently, it's a marketing strategy that encourages buying songs through the Internet and which will be attractive to consumers with a limited budget, because fans can buy on a per song basis.



It's also a move to discourage piracy, although Acel's management admits there's really no foolproof way of stopping the technological scourge.

At the moment, only two songs from the album's 12 tracks are available. "We're still testing the market," says a representative from Acel's management.

To download "Pakiusap," the lead single from Aker's management:

get an E-pin (electronic pin) or buy Ace's specialized prepaid cards from any Load central outlet or Netopia branch. Log on to www.starrecords.com.ph and use the log-in name and password provided on the e-pin/card.



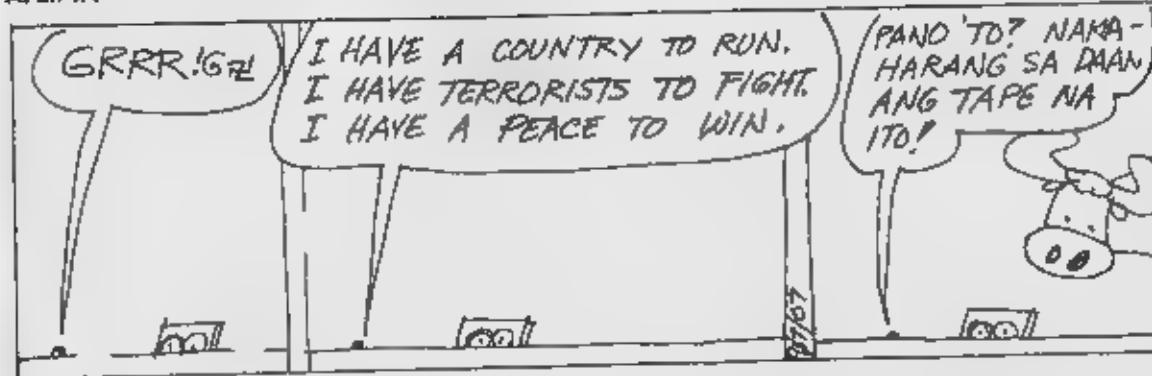
ACEL



A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS
To have and to hold
 Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA



A. LIPIN



BY JESS ABRERA

GARFIELD

BOY, THE MEAT COUNTER WAS PRACTICALLY SOLD OUT!



TO HAVE AND TO HOLD... A LOVE STORY DESTINED TO OUTLAST FOREVER!



BY JIM DAVIS

PUGAD BABOY



BY PM. JUNIOR



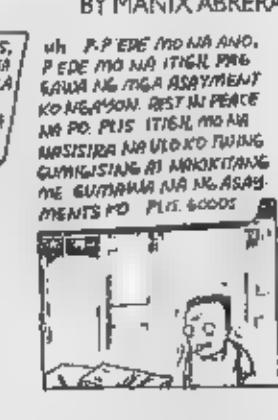
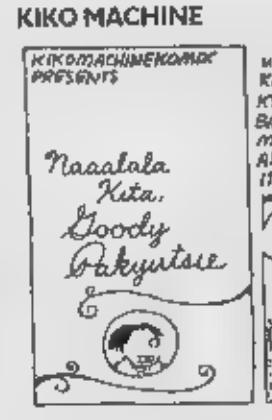
KIKO MACHINE



KIKO MACHINE PRESENTS



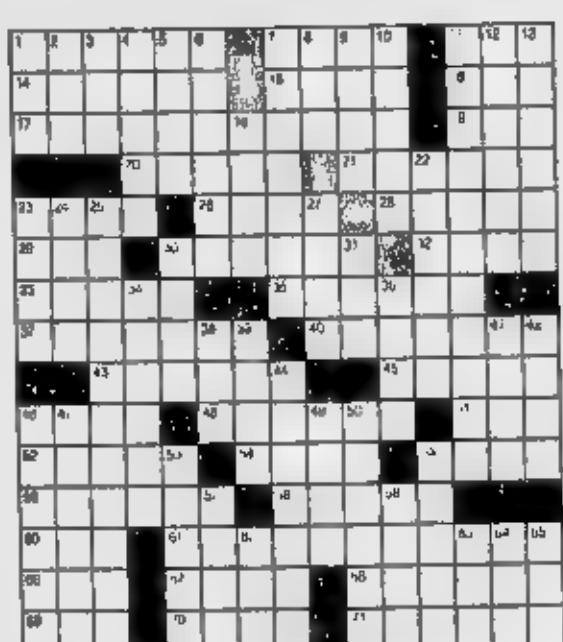
BY MANIX ABRERA



BY LYRA GARCI-LANO

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
 1 Leg of
Andress
 7 Gangster's gal
 11 IL metropolis
 14 Fourteen-line
poem
 15 NYC theatrical
award
 16 Lady lobster
 17 Grow up!
 18 Emile of the
PGA
 20 Botanical
puffiness
 21 Chowderhead
 23 January
honoree
 26 — a one
[none]
 28 Bilmless hel.
 29 One from
Madrid
 30 Pointed arch.
 32 Kind of roast
 33 Use a diving
rod
 36 — "Five-O"
 37 Rude
 40 Woodworking
tools
 43 Early
mainframe
 45 Wood shaper
 46 Against
 48 Increased
suddenly
 51 Give
permission to
 52 Bring up
 54 Laura or Bruce
 55 Old presents
 56 Be present at
 58 TV sound
 59 Short life?
 61 Grow up!
 66 Letters of debt
 67 Fencer's
weapon
 68 Perspicacious
 69 Aardvark tubid
 70 Ownership
document
 71 MGM Ron, e.g.
 DOWN
 1 Ship letters
 2 Decompose
 3 Winter ATV,
-Cat

By John Underwood
New York, NY

8/7/07

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

CHARM	PAPER	MAL
ALPINE	ABATE	ONE
THE SECRET	ROT	
TREATS	KRIS	
WHISKED	BAAING	
EAR	A SECRETISTIO	
ALYST	HJRLS	
NEST	JTJR	ITAL
EABERS	ARENA	
KNOWWHEN	AND AIM	
REPELS	CED	LILA
OPEC	JS CARS	
NAN	OWIT OTELIT	
OLE	ONEILS SEEKS	
R	DODOT STEEP	

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4 Dismantle
mortise joints
5 Wanton
6 Greek goddess
7 Sovereign
8 Kimono sash
9 The Swedish
Nightingale
10 On the up-and-
down
11 Grow up!
12 Light gas
13 Foot part
18 Somali
supermodel
22 Pat of "Happy
Days"
23 African
antselope
24 Party to
25 Grow up!
27 Twenty-months
30 Pants-maker
Strauss
31 Tango team
34 Gary of "Apollo
13"
36 — Lang Syne"
38 ER hookups
39 Excel

41 Syngman of
Korea
42 Hardens
44 Made
46 Saudi
47 County
48 Eats
50 Make loveable
53 Finished.

55 Trunk artery
57 Info
59 Should that be
the case
62 Born, in Paris
63 "Over There"
cont.
64 Sault — Marie
66 "And I Love —

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY You have the interesting combination of being solid, practical and productive, and yet at the same time, restless and adventurous! You're very sensitive and idealistic. Your business know-how can help you to help others. In your mid-40s, you will begin to explore a deeper meaning to life. The year ahead is the perfect year to learn something valuable.

Birthdate of Michael Emerson, actor

Jacques Lemaire, hockey player/coach;

Julie Kavner, actress.

ARIOS (March 21 to April 19): This is a great day to and the week. You're in party mode, and you want to have fun. Romantic flirtations are promising!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is the perfect time to entertain at home or enjoy family gatherings. Conversations with family members, especially a parent, will be important and satisfying.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a busy day for you. Short trips, errands, reading, writing and studying plus shopping will keep you on the run. Remember to stop and take a breath.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might be in the mood for some power shopping today. Your focus is on cash flow, earnings and money. Make friends with your bank account.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): The Moon is in your sign today. This makes you a bit more emotional than usual; however, it also brings you a little bit of extra good luck. Enjoy!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You need a little privacy and a bit of relaxation. Try to carve some time out just for yourself. Hide somewhere for a little while if you can.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a wonderful day to schmooze with friends and groups. Enjoy the company of others. Sports, romance, the theater and the arts are all good choices. Rent a movie.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might do something that calls attention to you today. Just be aware of this. Discussions with bosses, parents and authority figures could figure prominently.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Try to do something different today. You're in the mood for some adventure. You also want to learn something new. Go somewhere you've never been before.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You feel a bit intensely about practically everything today. If you're working, you will have great powers of concentration.

And if you're trying to have fun, you'll succeed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Because today's Moon is opposite your sign, you will have to go more than halfway when dealing with others, especially partners and close friends. Be polite; listen to what people have to say.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You want to work mode today! You want to get a lot done. Be calm with co-workers. Don't take anything personally. People are just trying to do their job—just like you.

Conceptus Sudoku

by Dave Green

7	3		5	4
+	+	+	+	-
3	6	2		
+	+	+	+	+
6		3	8	

3	6	4	2	1
+	+	+	+	+
3	6	4	2	1
+	+	+	+	+
5	9		1	

4	1	9		
+	+	+	+	+
1	8		6	5
+	+	+	+	+
4	1	9		

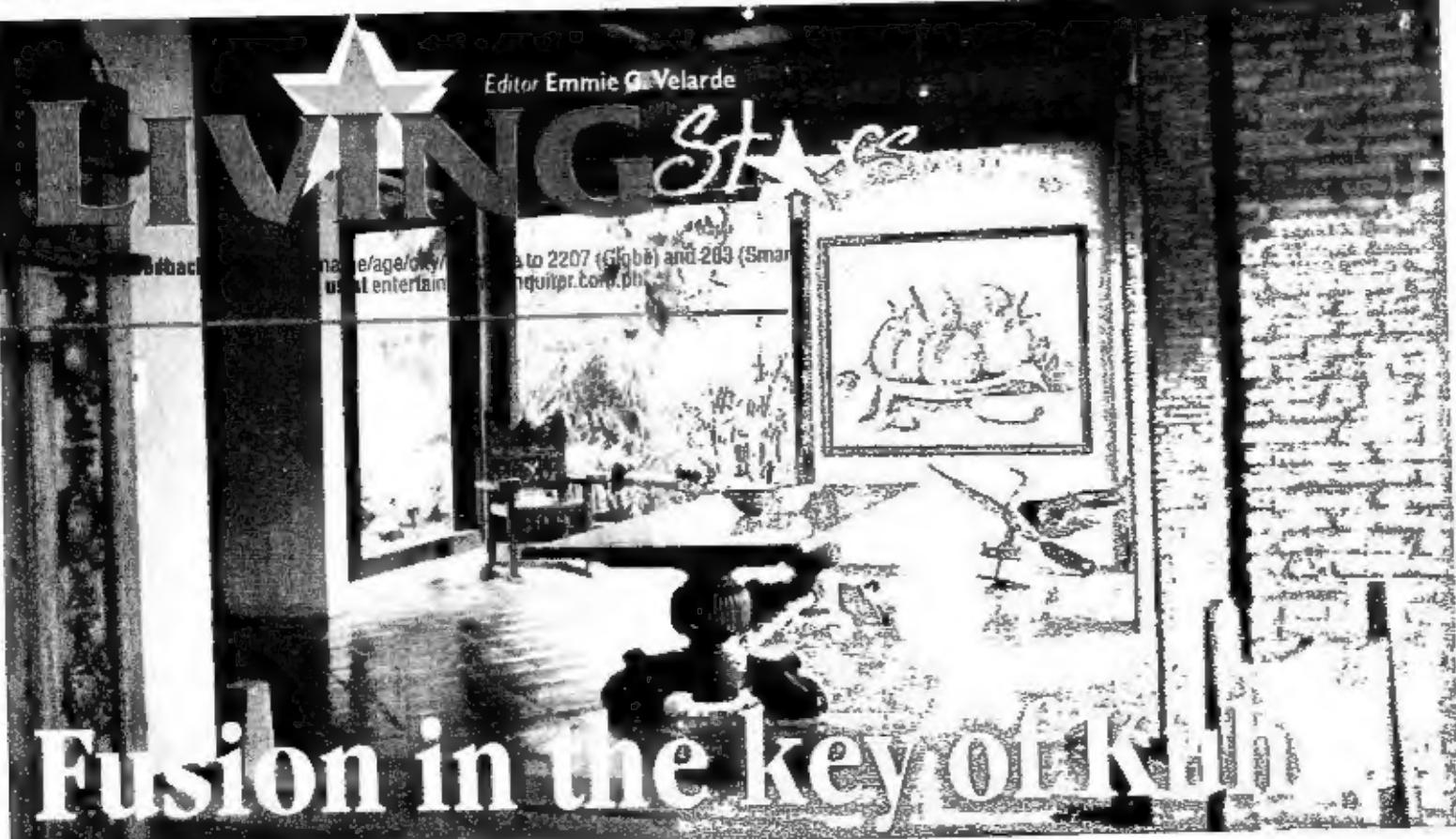
Difficulty Level ★★★★

Answer to previous puzzle

6	3	2	7	1	5	8	9	4
8	5	9	6	3	4	2	7	1
4	7	1	2	8	9	3	5	6
1	9	5	4	2	3	7	6	8
3	2	6	9	7	8	4	1	5

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ANSWER



Fusion in the key of K

Singer's home
is a veritable
museum of art
and antiques

**By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Rodel Rotoni**

The home of singer Kuh Ledesma in Pasay City is a museum of sorts.

Daughter Isabella, who dabbles in painting, describes the house as a haven for

Pieces by Isabella—and other painters—are strewn all over the place. Former movie billboard painter Mieng Babatuan and son Yeye have painted much of it.

"They make replicas of [19th-century Filipino folk artist] Damian Domingo's paintings of rural scenes, as well as portraits of Filipinos in *baro't saya*," Kuh relates.

Since Mang Mjong and Yeye are no longer busy doing movie billboards, Kuh has taken them in. "They drop by when they don't have work," she says. "We try to find something for them to do. Sometimes I call my friends and ask if they'd like some

"This is an artists' community," Isabella adds. "Carpenters, painters, furniture makers and gardeners get to do their work here."

...Kuh describes the interiors as, "Fusion, but Filipino at heart." She has gathered antique pieces from all over the country, plus a few from neighboring Asian countries. (There's a door knock-

Antique pieces from the Visayas adorn

HOME
BODY



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It's On	ITSON
Jump To The Rhythm	JUMP
I'm Ready	READY
Let It Go	LETGO
Push It To The Limit	LIMIT
Vertical	VERTICAL
Where Do I Go From Here	GO

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Catch Up! Log In on Disney Channel

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Globe

**LOVI**

I love Judith McNaught's "Paradise" and "Perfect." I usually read books by Dan Brown, or Paulo Coelho. But my friend Mikki introduced me to Judith's books. I wept buckets over "Paradise." All of a sudden, she was my favorite. "Paradise" is about a rich girl who falls in love with a poor boy. "Perfect" tells the story of a Hollywood actor who escapes from jail and holds a school teacher hostage. Judith's novels help me with drama scenes [on "Zaido"] or when I sing emotional songs. *Bayani San Diego Jr.*

PHOTO BY NEH ZAHORA

st gave birth by Cesarean section. That's mine, who took care of her 24/7. I'm planning to name the lone puppy are now back with us. Before she in my room. I also walked her around house. When I get home, she's always ex affectionate. I love the face of pugs, high. Happy's super sweet. I buy her all too.

Bayani San Diego Jr.**TAIL TALES****OPENS SEPT 12**
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CINEMA

ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41

EVAN ALMIGHTY G 1:40, 3:50 1408 PG13 6:00, 8:10, 10:20	DAY WATCH R13 12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30	NANCY DREW G 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10
THE INVASION PG13 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	SKIN WALKERS R18 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20	DISTURBIA PG13 12:35, 2:55, 5:15, 7:35, 10:20

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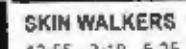
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SKIN WALKERS

12:55, 3:10, 5:25

7:40, 10:30



THE INVASION

11:30, 2:05, 4:20

6:10, 8:20, 10:30

GP-13



DISTURBIA

11:50, 2:35, 5:15

6:30, 8:50

R-13

NANCY DREW

12:55, 3:10, 5:25

7:40, 10:00

GP

PG-13

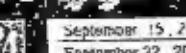
GP

PROMENADE

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DAY WATCH

11:50, 2:35, 5:15

7:40, 10:30



DISTURBIA

11:50, 2:35, 5:15

6:30, 8:50

R-13



NANCY DREW

12:55, 3:10, 5:25

7:40, 10:00

GP

MUSIC MUSEUM

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DAY WATCH

11:50, 2:35, 5:15

7:40, 10:30



DISTURBIA

11:50, 2:35, 5:15

6:30, 8:50

R-13



NANCY DREW

12:55, 3:10, 5:25

7:40, 10:00

GP

TEA TIME

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NOW SHOWING



DAY WATCH

11:50, 2:35, 5:15

7:40, 10:30



DISTURBIA

11:50, 2:35, 5:15

6:30, 8:50

R-13



NANCY DREW

12:55, 3:10, 5:25

7:40, 10:00

GP

MTRCB Rating

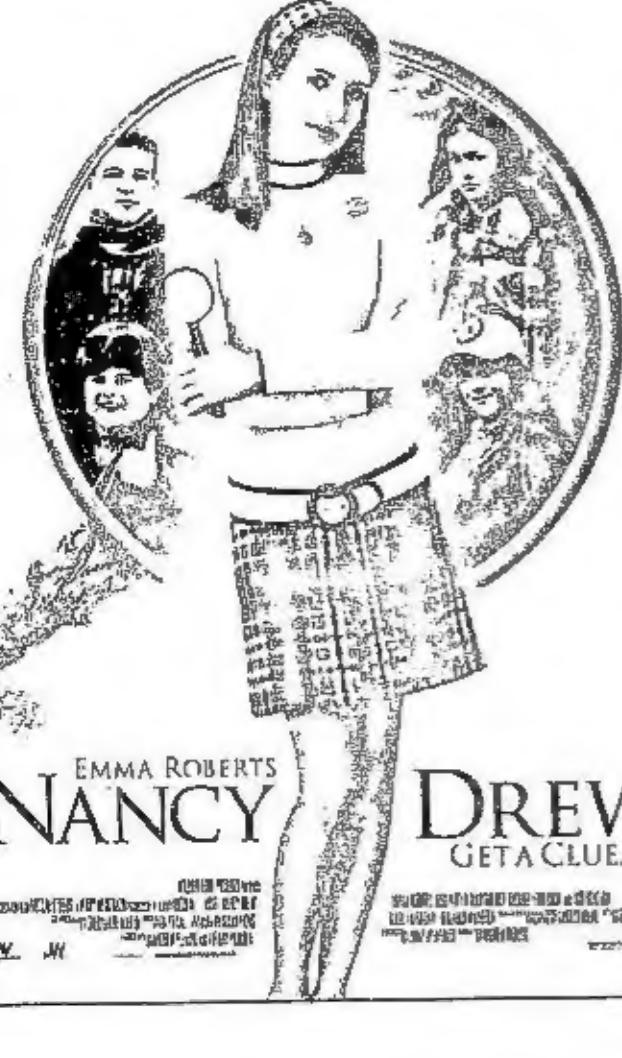
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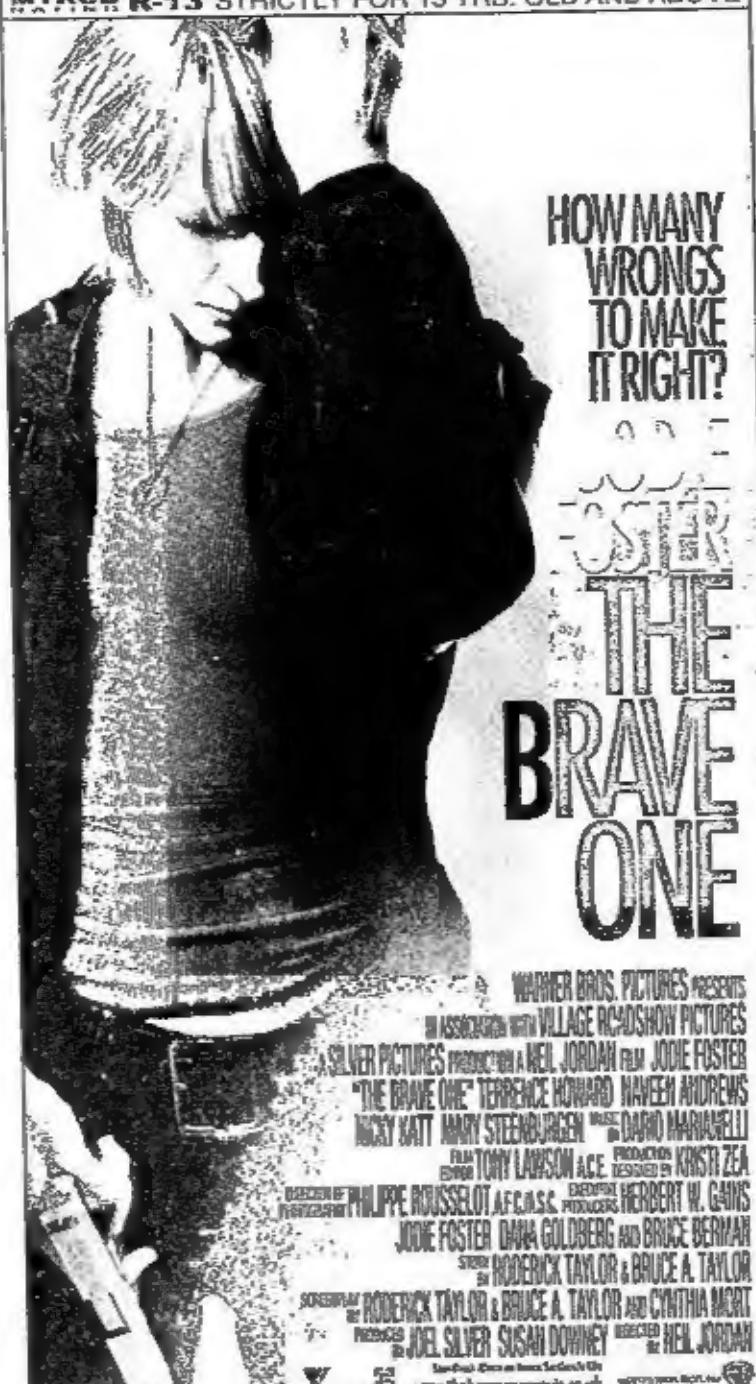
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in the
foyer.GOLDEN
crown is
a friend's
gift.HOME
BODYISABELLA sits
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grand from the
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fragment of a church
altar into a mirror
frame.

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CUSACKSAMUEL L.
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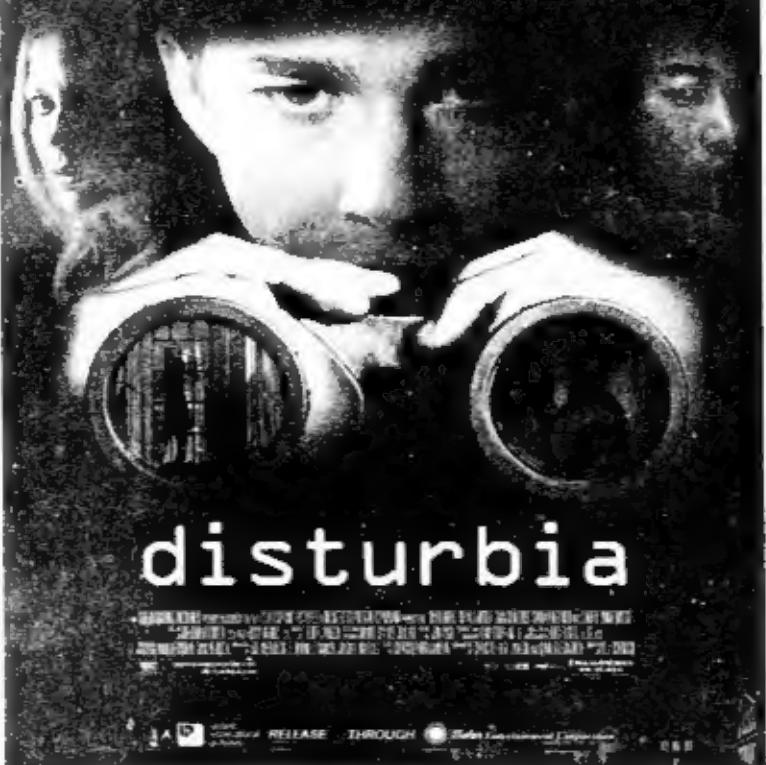
NICOLE KIDMAN DANIEL CRAIG

THE
INVASION

INVA

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R-18DISTURBIA
12:00, 3:45, 6:15, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13BABY GIRL
1:00, 3:20, 5:50, 8:20, 10:50
GINVASION 1408
3:20, 8:10 1:00, 5:15, 10:40
PG-13GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 NANCY DREW
MTRCB GP 12:00, 2:30,
5:00, 7:30, 10:003 NANCY DREW
MTRCB GP
2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:302 DISTURBIA
MTRCB PG-13 12:20, 2:45,
5:10, 7:35 10:004 DAY WATCH
MTRCB R-13 1:20,
4:10, 7:05, 10:00PREMIERE THEATRE EVAN ALMIGHTY (GP) 1:20, 3:30
7 HAIRSPRAY (GP) 6:00, 8:30

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